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THURSDAY, JULY 26TH, 2012

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See inside for GEM
 16-page Souvenir Special

The Bear Hotel



How Cowbridge family's TLC coaxed a Vale icon into the 21st century.
 (See pages 18-19)

Police warning as the latest telephone scam hits Bridgend

POLICE are warning the public, after a man from Bridgend was duped by a scam, which promised him a refund of overdraft charges.

The victim was contacted by a woman who falsely claimed to be from the Ministry of Justice, and was promised a refund of a substantial sum of money, if he made a payment of £99 using a Ukash voucher, an international cash payment method.

The man visited a PayPoint to buy the £99 UKASH voucher and

then called the scammer back, providing the code for payment.

Having provided the code for the voucher, the victim was advised by the scammer that further payments would be required in order to qualify him for an even larger refund.

The victim lost £2,400 to the scammers as a result.

Investigating officers want to make the public aware of the scam.

Anyone who believes they have been a victim, is asked to contact the police on 101.

WASTE DISPOSAL WORKER WENT BERSERK IN ABERKENFIG

Man's vicious threat to a woman 'peacemaker'

TWO women were attacked and a young mother had her life threatened when a waste disposal worker went berserk in Aberkenfig, Cardiff Crown Court heard.

The mother, who attempted to intervene during the incident, was told by 19-year-old Daniel James: "I'm going to kill you and slit your throat, and then I'm going to go into your house and slit the throats of your children," said prosecutor Jonathan Rees.

James, a waste disposal worker, of Heol Cwrdy, Sarn, admitted causing Roxanne Bridgeman actual bodily harm, and assaulting Jessica Hoey.

He also pleaded guilty to charges of causing damage.

He was sentenced to a community order involving supervision for a year and 200 hours unpaid work. He was also ordered to pay prosecution costs of £1,200.

Said Judge David Wynn Morgan: "Violence

REPORT by AJ SICLUNA

towards girls is wholly unacceptable.

"Real men don't hit girls. You hit two, one so hard her head shattered a car window."

Mr Rees said the incident occurred on October 22. Ms Bridgeman and Hoey were socialising in Aberkenfig. Both had in the past been in a relationship with James.

Ms Hoey began receiving text messages from him saying he wanted to resume the relationship. He became angry, and sent further text messages including: "I'm waiting for you outside your house", and "I'll break the door in."

The two arrived at the house and found the front door hanging off its hinges.

Ms Hoey spoke to him and James pushed her, and grabbed her arm, causing her to fall to the ground.

He then grabbed Ms Bridgeman by the hair and pushed her head against the window of a parked car,

which shattered. At this point, a young mother came out and remonstrated with James, who then threatened her.

He was arrested two days later and claimed the two women had pushed him. He accepted breaking the door and said the car window shattering was an accident.

He was said to have convictions for public order offences and causing damage.

His counsel, Jeremy Jenkins, said: "Until January last year, he had no previous convictions."

"He has secure employment, and this has created a marked effect on him. He is receiving assistance for a cannabis habit, and no longer has a peripatetic lifestyle."

"There is a certain immaturity, and he realises his life is at a crossroads."

"It is accepted that it was a cowardly attack on two young women. He should have one final chance to prove himself."

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Matthew Phillips.

Man dies, four are hurt in M4 crash

A 24-year-old man died in a crash on the M4 last Friday, July 20, between junction 66 (Sarn) and junction 37 (Pyle).

He was named by

police as Matthew Phillips, from the Cimla area of Neath.

A police spokeswoman said: "The collision occurred close to junction 36 at around 11pm on Friday, July 20, and involved

Matthew's blue Ford Fiesta and a red Toyota Avensis.

"Tragically, Matthew was pronounced dead at the scene. Two adults and two children travelling in the Toyota Avensis were taken to hospital, where they were treated for injuries."

The spokeswoman added that a four-year-old child had been kept in hospital, where his condition was described as stable.

Matthew's parents, Mr and Mrs Phillips, paid the following tribute to their son:

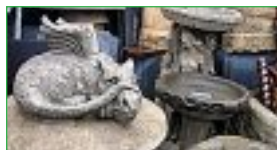
"Matthew was a precious son, brother and partner, who lit up every room with his smile and laughter."

"He had a caring nature and was loved by all who knew him. He will be greatly missed and our lives will never be the same."

Anyone with information should contact the Western Roads Policing team on 101, (ext. 88331) or Crimestoppers, anonymously, on 0800 555 111.



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Llangewydd songbirds are county borough's top choir!



Bethan Hatch (far right) with her pupils after winning the Bridgend Junior Choir of the Year title.

LLANGEWYDD Junior School hit all the right notes recently to take the title of Bridgend junior choir of the year.

The pupils triumphed in the final at Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Llangynwyd, winning £500 in music vouchers and a trophy.

The talented youngsters, under the expert guidance of musical director Bethan Hatch and accompanist Darryl Evans, wowed judges with their renditions of 'Something Inside So Strong', 'Price Tag' and

'Sing Out Loud'.

Headteacher Sue Davies said:

"It was a very exciting day and one the school will never forget.

"Competition on the day was very fierce, so we were so proud to be named winners.

"The choir is open to all pupils at the school. As well as practice every Tuesday after school, they have sang at many events, including a choir concert at Ewenny Priory, the Civic Offices in Bridgend; and most recently, at the Mayor's inauguration coffee

morning in the Great House."

Coun Huw David, Bridgend County Borough Council's cabinet member for children and young people, said:

"Congratulations to Llangewydd and well done to Trelales Primary and Garth Primary, who also sang so beautifully on the day.

"They can all feel extremely proud of themselves.

"Singing in a choir is a great way for children of all ages to come together as a group, develop their musical skills and understanding, and represent their school at special events.

"School choirs bring great pleasure to those watching and listening and I'd like to thank teachers for the effort they put into this important extra-curricular activity."

Flying Start to summer in Caerau and Cornelly LOCAL tots can get a Flying Start to summer with two fun days.

Bridgend County Borough Council's Flying Start team will be hosting two events aimed at children aged 0-three in the Afon y Felin and Caerau Flying Start catchment areas.

On Monday, July 30, a fun day will be held in Caerau Primary, Library Road, from 10am-3pm, where activities will include face painting, a bouncy castle and crafts.

On Wednesday, August 1, from 10am-3pm, the same activities will be held in

the grounds of Afon y Felin Primary in North Cornelly.

Light refreshments will be available at both events. However, a Flying Start fun day planned for Betws Primary on Friday, August 3 has been cancelled due to the recent fire. Coun Huw David, cabinet member for children and young people, said: "These are great community events especially for little ones and their families in these Flying Start catchment areas.

"We're delighted that the number of children receiving Flying Start services is doubling to more than 1,400 over the next three years thanks to increased Welsh Government funding.

"We look forward to announcing how we will expand the service into other areas of the county borough in the coming months."

Police warn residents over counterfeit currency scam

POLICE in Bridgend county borough are warning shop owners and residents to keep an eye out for people trying to exchange counterfeit currency, after an incident in a Kenfig Hill pub.

On July 14, a man entered a public house on Pysgah St, Kenfig Hill, at around 4.30pm. He produced £300 in £20 notes and asked the landlord to exchange the money for £10 notes.

The landlord became suspicious and checked the notes with a counterfeit banknote detection pen, which revealed that the notes were fakes. The landlord then contacted the police.

Police have issued the following statement giving advice on what to look out for:

Businesses are advised to take extra care when accepting bank notes and to check their authenticity.

There are eight distinctive features which will determine that the £20 note is genuine and people should use a number of these methods before accepting the money.

Check the paper and raised print: Banknotes are printed on special paper that gives them their unique feel. By running your finger across the front of the £20 note you can feel raised print in areas such as the word 'Bank of England', and in the bottom right corner, around the figure 20.

Check the metallic thread: There is a metallic thread embedded in every banknote. This appears as silver dashes on the back of the £20 note. If you hold up the note to the light, the metallic thread will appear as a continuous dark line.

Check the watermark: Hold the note up to the light with the front of the note facing you. In the clear area on the left, you will see an image of the Queen's portrait together with a bright £20. This can also be viewed from the back of the note.

Check the print quality: The printed lines and colours on banknotes are sharp, clear and free from smudges or blurred edges.

Check the holographic strip: The position of the strip is the same on each note. It has a number of foil patches along its length which contain holographic images.

The positioning of the patches varies along the strip. When the note is tilted, one hologram shows a multi-coloured image of Adam Smith, the other changes between a multi-coloured pound sign and the figure 20. The figure 20 is also embossed on the strip, and is positioned in the same place on every note - just to the right of

the signature of the Chief Cashier.

Check the ultra-violet features: If you put the note under a good quality ultra-violet light and look at the front, the figure 20 appears in bright red and green over a dull background.

Check the microlettering: Using a magnifying glass, look closely at the lettering beneath the Queen's portrait - you will see the value of the note written in small letters and numerals.

See-through register: Hold the note up to the light and you will see coloured irregular shapes printed on the front and back of the note that combine to form the pound sterling symbol.

the signature of the Chief Cashier.

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See-through register: Hold the note up to the light and you will see coloured irregular shapes printed on the front and back of the note that combine to form the pound sterling symbol.

Quiz League posers

This week's Quiz League posers are as follows:

1) Which Dickens novel concerns the story of a woman who is born in a debtors' prison in Marshalsea, and grows up to support her father who is the longest-serving inmate in the prison?

2) "We're in the Money" is a song from which stage musical?

3) Who captained the New Zealand cricket team on their tour of England in 2004?

4) Which British city is served by Turnhouse airport?

A RUDGE (for Quiz League)

(# Edinburgh)
3) Stephen Flemming
2) 42nd Street
1) Little Dorrit
ANSWERS:

Bridgend male choir raises the roof on tour

BRIDGEND Male Choir has recently returned from a foray into the choral heartland of north Wales, where they won praise from local residents and visitors from far afield in two charity concerts.

In this year of the Olympics, as well as the Eisteddfod in the neighbouring Vale of Glamorgan, the choir once again gave acclaimed performances in synchronised singing.

Aided by the musical team of Cheryl Jones, accompanist, and Scott Williams, organist, the choir's musical director, Rhianon Williams Hale, displayed again her trademark tight yet sympathetic control, resulted in singing which was full of contrast in sound and intensity.

Afficionados of male choirs at both concerts

praised the performances and the range and variety of the choir's repertoire, saying they had not heard a better choir for many years.

The first concert was in St John's Methodist Church, Llandudno on July 19, and the soloist was the delightful Eleri Owen Edwards, mezzo-soprano.

At the second concert in St Asaph's Cathedral on July 20, the choir was supported by two excellent soloists. Mezzo-soprano, Sioned Terry, gave a wonderfully varied programme, as did the impressive bass, Phil Harrison.

The short tour was a great success, not least for the two organisations, St John's Church and the St Kentigern's Hospice, who benefited from the money raised during the concerts, and as a result of impromptu collections taken by choristers over the weekend.

TIM O'HAGAN

MP joins the call for fairness on Farepak

MADELEINE MOON, MP for the Bridgend constituency, has joined calls for greater fairness in the distribution of compensation to the victims of the Farepak collapse in 2006.

Following a long process, the joint liquidators of Farepak have announced that customers who lost money when Farepak collapsed will receive approximately 50p for every £1 lost by the end of August.

"However, it seems as much as two-thirds of the money recovered will be used to pay for the costs of the collapse, rather than to customers who lost out," the MP said.

"While I am very pleased for my constituents who had lost money through the collapse of Farepak, I am very concerned that the process has resulted in them not receiving as much as I would have hoped.

"My colleague, Jessica Morden MP, met with the Secretary of State for

Business, Innovation and Skills, Vince Cable, last week to raise these concerns and I will continue to support her in her campaign on this issue."

"Questions remain about the regulation of these schemes and much more needs to be done to prevent the same thing happening again in the future.

"Time and again, people who can least afford it are being let down by the financial services industry - and it is vital the Government takes action."

If anyone who made a claim for compensation has since moved, they need to inform the Claims Management Team within the next two weeks.

Anyone in this situation should send their name, agent's number, amount of their claim, old address and new address and their signature to Claims Management Team, Farepak Food & Gifts Limited - In Liquidation, PO Box 3404, Swindon SN2 9EQ."

WHAT'S ON IN BRIEF

Summer at Bryngarw
BRYNGARW Country Park in Brynmynyn, Bridgend, will be holding themed family fun days throughout the school holidays from 11am-3pm every Wednesday from July 25-August 29.

Children aged seven-11 can enjoy scavenger hunts and trails, craft workshops, orienteering, mini beast hunts, bush craft and survival skills. Admission is £2 per child.

Bridgend Youth's 'Honk' at Pavilion

HONK! is a new production presented by Bridgend Youth Theatre juniors live at the Grand Pavilion, Porthcawl, from today July 26 to Saturday, July 28 at 7.30pm, with Saturday matinee at 2.30pm.

HONK! is a musical adaptation of the Hans Christian Andersen story, The Ugly Duckling, with music by George Stiles and lyrics by Anthony Drewe.

For tickets, call the box office on 01656 815995.

HIGH TIDE TIMES

(UNTIL AUGUST 2)

The high tides listed in this week's GEM are those in Porthcawl. It should be remembered that along the coast, high tide times will vary.

For instance, in Barry, the high point will be 20 - 25 minutes later.

DATE	Time AM	Ht M	Time PM	Ht M
26 Thur			12.06	8.7
27 Fri	00.27	8.6	13.03	8.4
28 Sat	01.33	8.3	14.21	8.2
29 Sun	02.59	8.1	15.44	8.2
30 Mon	04.21	8.4	17.00	8.6
31 Tues	05.29	8.7	17.58	9.2
01 Wed	06.26	9.3	18.51	9.7
02 Thur	07.11	9.8	19.36	10.0

While The GEM makes every effort to check the accuracy of tide tables, we recommend that anyone putting out to sea, or walking in an area where they could be cut off, should always check with a tide table specific to their location.

Former Bridgend head girl receives fellowship from Cardiff University

LAST Friday (July 20) saw the last head girl at Bridgend Girl's Grammar School, Dame Nicola Davies DBE, receive a fellowship from Cardiff University – in recognition of her successful career in the courts.

Born in Llanelli, she moved to the borough when she was four when her father took up employment with the Steel Company of Wales.

First attending Oldcastle Nursery, she stayed with them throughout her junior years before attending Bridgend Girls' School in 1964. Leaving in 1971, she was the last head girl at the school before the grammar schools closed and Bridgend Girls' became Bryntirion School.

She told The GEM: "Bridgend in those days was a lovely market town. It was a very happy time. I enjoyed my schooldays there.



ABOVE: Dame Nicola Davies: she is proud to be the first Welsh woman to be made a High Court judge.

The friends I made in school are my friends today. In fact, Olwen Lewis, who was my deputy head girl, is here today.

"In the summer you were always going down to Ogmore and Southerndown. The beach there and walks along the beach were

very much a part of childhood."

After completing her A-levels in English, history and music, Dame Nicola moved to Birmingham to undertake a degree in law because: "I wanted to take a degree that I thought would give me a job", but at first it wasn't a subject she took to.

"At the end of my first year at Birmingham, I was going to change to history, and my law tutor persuaded me to stay. And then, having got my law degree, I was actually going to go into industry.

"I went for two days of interviews with Unilever. And the then company secretary, who was a barrister, took me on one side and said: 'there is more of a lawyer in you than you are actually willing to acknowledge'."

She changed her mind and completed her solicitor's exams in London, but moved immediately into the city to work as an investment analyst. She "hugely enjoyed" her work, but knew it wasn't something she wanted to do for life.

"I'd seen the Bar in action and I loved what I'd seen, but I didn't think I'd stand a chance, because it seemed to me it was male, it was public school, and it was Oxbridge. I was a woman, I'd been to grammar school and I'd been to Birmingham. But I thought if I don't give it a go, I'll get a chip on my shoulder about this."

She joined Gray's Inn, the Welsh Inn, and eventually got her tenancy in chambers. Since then, Dame Nicola has not looked back.

"I adored law in practice. I found the work fascinating. In my first ten years of practice, I was a generalist. I

by LEIGH GRUFFYDD SANDERS

then gradually began to specialise in medical law.

"When I took silk, which was in 1992, I was very much a specialist in the field of medical law. And that's how it carried on in silk."

After working on some very high profile cases, including the defence of Dr Harold Shipman in 2000, she was appointed to the High Court bench in 2010, having been a Deputy since 2003.

"It's a very, very different job. At the Bar, I was generally defending. As a judge, my position is one of utter neutrality. I have the responsibility of making a decision, which I hope will be the right decision."

"It is a very, very different role, and one I usually enjoy."

Speaking on being nominated for the fellowship, Dame Nicola added: "I was hugely honoured. It came out of the blue. I feel very privileged to be recognised by a university such as Cardiff; a prestigious university, a university with a very good law school, and a Welsh university."

And as she prepared to give a speech to the latest group of medical graduates, she had some sound advice for anyone who may be looking to follow her into medical law.

"It's hard work. I find you need a very good memory. When the opportunities come along, you just go with them, and you go with the demands of the job."

"Sometimes those demands can take chunks out of you. But I found it hugely rewarding. I have never, ever been bored. Even looking back now, I cannot think of anything I'd rather have done."

But what of her proudest moment? "I'm particularly proud of the fact that I was the first Welsh woman to be made a QC and the first Welsh woman to be made a high court judge."

It rings true, then, that you can take the girl out of Wales etc...

Did you know you can read your GEM online?
bridgend-today.co.uk

Torchbearer stops off at Heronsbridge school fete



LEFT to RIGHT: Chris Major (retired headteacher), David Lewis (Olympic torchbearer), Glynis James (headteacher), Marjorie Nash (chair of The Friends of Heronsbridge), First Minister Carwyn Jones.

ON Saturday, July 7, the 'Friends of Heronsbridge' held their annual fete in Heronsbridge School, Ewenny Road, Bridgend.

Usually, the fete is held in the school grounds, but this year, because of the extreme weather, the event had to be held indoors.

We were pleased that so many people attended, in spite of the weather, and were able to enjoy all that we had to offer, which included a variety of stalls selling cakes, toys, bric-a-brac, books, cards, soft drinks and sweets. There was also a Fairtrade stall and a stall selling jam, made by the school's Enterprise team.

There were various activities for children, including an indoor bouncy castle, and there was also a live band performing, and enter-

tainment by the theatre and drama group 'Stagecoach'.

The event began with a visit from David Lewis, an Olympic torchbearer, and then was officially opened by First Minister, Carwyn Jones.

As in previous years, the school was pleased to host a football tournament on the same day with several teams taking part, although spectators were rather less in number due to the weather.

We are pleased to announce that the fete raised more than £2,500.

The Friends of Heronsbridge are very grateful to all those who supported this successful event, or gave their time in preparation and organisation, manning stalls, selling or buying raffle tickets and to all who gave donations or raffle prizes.

Marjorie Nash

Two gliding scholarships for Air Cadets



Cpl Dan Mabry (left) and Cdt Tom Jury (right) proudly show off their wings.

TWO cadets from 631 (Maesteg) Squadron Air Training Corps, have just completed gliding scholarships at Swansea Airport.

The two cadets, Corporal Dan Mabry (16) from Nantyffylon and Cadet Tom Jury (17) from Cwmfelin, spent over 20 hours between them in the air, learning to fly Vigilant motor gliders over the Gower Peninsula at 636 Volunteer Gliding Squadron (VGS).

Built in Germany, the Vigilant is a two-seat training motor-glider with a 17.4m wingspan and cruises at 60 knots.

Their courses were at weekends and involved instruction in the air and on the ground by Air Cadet instructors of 636 VGS.

Tom was awarded his silver wings and was able to fly a solo trip at

the end of his course. He reported: "It was amazing, and the best experience of my life so far."

Dan, like most Air Cadets, flew his qualifying flight with an instructor alongside him and was awarded his blue wings.

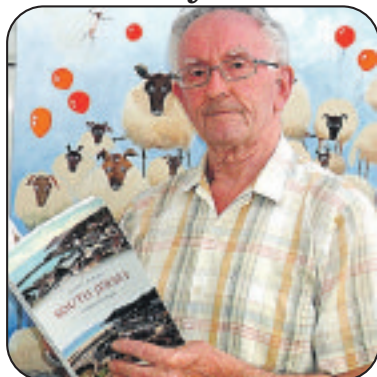
He reported: "I'm only 16 and to be allowed to fly a glider when I'm too young to drive a car, has been a fantastic opportunity."

Gliding scholarships are open to cadets aged 16 and over who can pass a simple medical.

631 Squadron meets at Upper Street, Maesteg on Tuesdays and Fridays and welcome boys and girls aged 13-plus.

It also needs adults to help out. They do not need to have previous ATC or RAF experience and can serve in a uniformed or civilian instructor capacity.

Local author publishes 2nd Jersey book



PORHCRAWL author Keith E Morgan has just published his second book about the island of Jersey.

The second volume, entitled *South Jersey Through Time*, is on sale now, and Mr Morgan spoke to The GEM, for whom he is a regular contributor, shortly after returning from the Channel Islands, where he did a book signing in Waterstone's Book Shop, St Helier.

He said: "The response in Jersey has been very good, and I am due to go back in September for another book signing, this time in WH Smith."

He plans a third Jersey book, and has found no shortage of material. He said: "I thought I knew the island well, after holidaying there on many occasions, but every time I go, I still find something new."

As with his previous books featuring the Porthcawl and Kenfig Hill areas, the format is of old photographs of places and events, often matched up with a present day image, highlighting the way people and places have changed.

The Jersey books have been published by Amberley Publishing, The Hill, Stroud, Gloucestershire, GL5 4EP.

Busy days for WI members

BRACKLA/BRIDGEND WI



LEFT: Sarah Huws spoke on the reconstruction of St Teilo's Church at St Fagans Museum.

THE monthly meeting was held on July 17 in the new venue at Hope Baptist Church.

It began with Sarah Huws giving an enthusiastic talk and slide show about the reconstruction of St Teilo's Church at St Fagans the folk museum.

This will be followed next month by a visit to the museum, instead of the monthly meeting.

Our next meeting will involve 'New age curling' at Hope at 7.30pm on Tuesday September 18. Visitors are always welcome.

Sarah then joined us for refreshments, thanks to June and Nicola, host-

esses for the evening.

President Pauline then reminded members of forthcoming events: members entering items for the Glamorgan Show to be held in North Cornelly Community Centre and public hall on Saturday July 28 between 10am-5pm, are asked to bring their items to Pauline before Friday.

Also, on July 28, one of our members, Jayne Caudy, has arranged a Strawberry Tea in aid of Breast Cancer Care in the Trinity Church, Porthcawl between 3pm-5pm. Hope to see you all at one or both events.

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YOUR CHANCE TO SHARE THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Impressive concert
BRACKLA Community Chorus recently held its annual concert in the community centre, when guest artists were the Archbishop McGrath RC school junior orchestra and wind band.

The choir under its musical director Gillian Ridout and piano accompanist Gareth Waite, began with Lionel Bart's 'I will buy', the hit song 'Fields of Gold' by Sting, and Verdi's 'Speed your Journey'.

Then came the school's junior wind band under director Simon Grey, with 'Strike up the band' and the 'Way we were', followed by soloists and finally 'The champions Theme'.

The choir returned with two more songs, followed by the school's junior orchestra under its director Glyn Price with its version of music from the film *Batman*.

The male section of the choir performed Tom Jones's hit song 'Delilah' with the audience joining in the chorus and the orchestra played music from the film *Spiderman*, and the choir finished the evening with Andrew Lloyd Webber's *The Phantom of the Opera* and Queen's 'Bohemian Rhapsody'.

The concert ended with the Welsh National Anthem 'Mae Hen Wlad Fy Nhadau'.

Correction
I HAVE a correction to make to last week's article on the Maesteg Children's Choir annual concert. The winner of the Judith Williams award given for a chorister's dedication through the year, was Harriet Forwood, not Amy Harris, as published, my apologies to Harriet.

The choir has since then travelled to Bristol for a concert in aid of 'Sense', that supports adults and children who are both deaf and blind.

Basketball League

THE following primary school teams were successful in winning the area title in the Bridgend and district basketball league:
Area east – Brynmynyn primary school; North – Tynyrheol primary school; South – Newton primary school; West – Mynydd Cynffig primary school; Central – Tremains primary school.

Because of a fire at Pencoe college, the 2012 Welsh play-offs

were cancelled, and the 2011 winning teams for the boys – Mynydd Cynffig, and girls, Llangwydd were selected.

New school
BRIDGEND CBC Education Department is organising a consultation with school governors, parents and teachers associated with Coity primary school proposing to replace the present Coity primary school.

The new school will be much larger, on nearby Parc Derwin housing estate, which will have approximately 1,500 new houses.

The new school could accommodate 420 children with a nursery for 60 children, instead of the present school's accommodation of 134 places and a nursery of 33 places.

It is hoped to be completed by summer term 2016.

Ysgol Bryn Castell
A CONSULTATION has begun on proposals to move Ysgol Bryn Castell (YBC) Special School to the former Omore Comprehensive site in Bryncreithin.

Ysgol Bryn Castell was established in 2002 for 165 pupils with communication disorders, moderate learning difficulties, borderline severe learning difficulties, emotional and/or behavioural difficulties and mild autistic spectrum disorders.

Since then the council has expanded its Education Inclusion programme meaning many more pupils with moderate learning difficulties and communication difficulties have successfully integrated into their local comprehensive schools.

Much of the school's 13.7 acre site on Llangwydd Road is not being utilised and its accommodation is not considered suitable to meet the requirements of a modern special school.

With the development of the new Coleg Cymunedol Y Dderwen the Omore site will become vacant in July 2013.

The council wants feedback in a proposal to transfer Ysgol Bryn Castell to the Omore site from the autumn term 2014 with the relocated school focusing on provision for pupils emotional, behavioural and social difficulties up to the age of 19.

The move would also enable the Pupil Referral Unit to be relocated to the same site as YBC meaning specialist support agencies could work together in one place.

The council says it recognises that mainstream education will still not suit every pupil

NORTH BRIDGEND NEWS

A message for all readers in the north of Bridgend who would like to have items included in the community news columns of THE GEM:

If you wish to submit reports on any social activity in this region, please contact me.

I am very approachable and will endeavour to include every newsworthy subject.

Contact details: **CLIVE MITCHELL**
1 Tyn-Y-Coed Close, Sarn, Bridgend CF32 9NQ
TEL: 01656 725399

email: tyncoed1@yahoo.co.uk



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so it is committed to providing the best possible learning experience in the most suitable location.

Pupils' success

TYNRYHEOL Primary School, Llangenor, head-teacher, Martin Griffiths, has congratulated the following pupils: Carl Danter, Ioan Davies, Ffion Deere, Callum Fletcher, Kai Lewis, Mia-Brooke Lewis, Rhodri O'Brien, Ben Parker, Logan Penny, Ethan Riddiford, Jake Whitfield and Chelsea Williams on representing the school in basketball and winning the northern area title in the Bridgend and District League.

WI meeting
AT the recent meeting of Aberkenfig and District Women's Institute president Eunice Williams welcomed members and a guest.

Happy Birthday was sung to Irene, Maureen and Dilys. August birthday belles Betty and Dorothy were also sung to.

The speaker, Alan Thorne, whose subject was Myths Makers. Alan told tales of mysterious goings on with a humorous twist and lots of anecdotes.

The raffle was won by Maureen Pearce and the winner of the competition was Mair Starr with a pretty little grandfather clock.

The next item for discussion was the trip to the National Botanical Gardens on August 8. The coach will leave the Aberkenfig Bible Church (Old Lyric) at 11am and return from the gardens at 4pm. Contact Pat Lewis, Secretary, on 01656 721933.

The next meeting will be Mr Bray, whose subject is 'Knights of the Black Bag' the competition will be for an item

beginning with the letter 'K', there will be a sales table.

Visitors and new members are welcome at Aberkenfig WI meetings on the second Wednesday of the month at 2pm in the Welfare Hall, Heol Persondy, Aberkenfig.

New choir

TAKE NOTE mixed voice choir, which was only formed in November 2010, is gaining in popularity and has been invited to perform at events promoted by the Mayor.

It recently held its first annual concert in Maesteg town hall, which was a huge success.

Since its formation two of its choristers are expecting their first child, with one of the expectant mums performing on stage in the annual concert just four weeks before the baby was due to arrive!

The choir thanks Alice Lediard, for her design work and also congratulates Alice on gaining a first class honours degree.

The choir consists of sopranos: Lauren Goldsworthy, Rhian Hughes, Laura Jones, Alice Lediard, Leanne Morgan, Sian Rushforth, Bethan Thomas and Caitlin Whelan.

Altos: Katie Bickle, Bethan Davies, Siwan Edwards, Siwan Rees, Claire Williams and Trudy Williams.

Boys: Brad James, Rhodri John, Richard Lewis, Aled Williams and Daniel Williams.

The choristers believe they have a first class musical team in Richard Norton, Lisa Norbury and Claire Williams assisted by Piano, Lisa Norbury; Keyboard, Clare Isaac; Drums, Silvana Tambini, Guitar, Dave Jefferies.

The choir rehearses in the 777's night club Maesteg, on Tuesdays from 7.30pm.

He has also, of course, written a novel



Gillian Ridout and Glyn Price.



Gillian Ridout and Gareth Waite.

Local poet's body of work inspires 'best of' selection



ABOVE: Robert Minhinick reading at the Porthcawl launch of his selected poems.

PORHCRAWL
author Robert Minhinick has been awarded the accolade of a 'Best of' collection, with the release of a volume covering his work from 1978 to the present day, entitled *New Selected Poems*.

He has included pieces from his nine books of poetry, and also has a short collection from *Fairground Music*, a book which is, in the main, prose written to accompany photographs of Porthcawl.

The collection coincides with his impending 60th birthday – always a good reason for a collection of a writer's work.

The official Porthcawl launch was last Friday (July 20) in the cafe bar of the Grand Pavilion, where he was joined by two other poets, Bridgend's Rhian Edwards, and by David Lloyd, who was visiting from Syracuse, USA.

Those nine books of poetry include one, *The Adulterer's Tongue*, where Robert translated a number of Welsh language poets, including Gwyneth Lewis, Menna Elfyn and Bobi Jones, into English.

He has also, of course, written a novel

Sea Holly, (based in a town rather like Porthcawl) and several collections of short stories and polemical journalism.

His selection includes many poems inspired by the area around Porthcawl, especially the coastline.

The selection the poems was down to Robert, and he had 100s to choose from, representing his thoughts over a period of almost 40 years.

A number of his poems are now on the A-Level English syllabus, and this means that he often visits schools to talk about his work.

He told *The GEM*: "It can be a bit disconcerting to be asked about opinions that you held 30 years ago."

"On a recent visit to a local sixth form, I had to admit I had lapsed as a vegetarian, and I think a few of the students were quite disappointed in me!"

New Selected Poems is supported by the Arts Council England, and is published by Carcanet Press.

It is also available from *SUSSED*, near the bandstand, John Street, Porthcawl.

PHILIP IRWIN

Who wants to build what, and where?

Mr Allan Watkins – 4 Coed Parc Court, Bridgend – Fell one sycamore tree and trim/lop three other sycamore trees in rear garden.

Mrs Peter Wills – Land adjacent 10 The Graig, Newcastle Hill, Bridgend – Remove number of ash and sycamore trees and thin out number of ash, sycamore and willow trees.

Mrs Chris Bullimore – Ingleside, 335A New Road, Porthcawl – Crown reduce ash tree by 30 per cent, fell mixed hedge and fell six conifer trees.

Mr Richard Lloyd – 24 Waunlon, Porthcawl – Single storey side extension for disabled person.

Mr K Parry – 16 St Marie Street, Bridgend – Single storey rear flat roof kitchen extension.

Mr Malcolm Perry – Danygraig Farm, Blackmill – Timber amenity building.

Mr A Street – 2 The Precinct, Porthcawl – Change of use from a hairdressers to accountants office.

Mr L Davies – 3 Kittiwake Close, Nottage, Porthcawl – Conservatory extension to rear.

Mrs Valerie Perry – 35 Graham Avenue, Penyfa, Bridgend – Roof only amendment to original application ref P/07/1024/FUL.

Mr Anthony Lynch – 5 Alison Court, Newton, Porthcawl – Proposed sun room and porch extension and extension to existing garage store for work workshop.

Trelales Ltd – Oystercatcher PH, Car Park, High Street, Laleston – Seven new dwellings.

Ms Hannah Roberts – Pwllfelyn Farm, Glynogwr – Single storey side extension.

BCBC Regeneration

Projects – Land off Eastern Promenade/The Portway, Porthcawl – Raising of ground levels by up to 1.4 metres and of footpath across site.

Mrs S Thomas and Mr S K Paley – The Dell, Church Road/Merthyr Mawr Road, Bridgend – Demolish existing dwelling and construct four detached dwellings with external works and road improvements.

Mr Marcus Rossini – Former Wildmill Boiler House, Quarella Road, Bridgend – Extend consent P/07528/FUL for further five years for construction of development.

Cognita Schools Ltd – St Clares Convent, Clevis Lane, Porthcawl – Installation of artificial pitch with associated fencing.

Mrs Elfreda Jones – 22 Masfield Mews, Bridgend – Shower room conversion and hard standing with new external access.

Mr Richard James – Pyllau House, Coytrahen – Retrospective application for construction of timber summerhouse/storage unit with timber decking.

Mr Andrew Braund – Land north Pontyrryl service station (former Lleust School), Pontyrryl, Bridgend – Two new semi-detached dormer bungalows.

Did you know you can read your GEM online? bridgend-today.co.uk

COLLEAGUES BID SIAN FOND FAREWELL AT CEFN GLAS

IMAGES by ANDY WICKS



ABOVE: Sian Ashton and husband Julian.

PRAISE FOR THE UNDERDOGS!

THE St Athan Primary School PTA would like to express its gratitude to a young band called The Underdogs, who are students at Bridgend College, and OneSound Event Services, who provided a disco, at very short notice,

for the year-6 leavers' party. They pulled out all the stops and made the day very special. A great time was had by all, including the teachers. Everyone at St Athan Primary would like to wish the band all the very best in their musical career. Julie Lynch-Wilson (for St Athan Primary School PTA)

AS was reported in last week's GEM, after 40 years at Cefn Glas Infants School, the deputy headteacher Sian Ashton enjoyed a garden party in the school grounds with colleagues and friends.

She entered Cefn Glas straight from college in 1972, specialising in Welsh and music, and has taught the grandparents of some of the school's current pupils.

The headmistress Sue Henderson thanked all the teachers past and present for attending.

Music provided by the Phil Dando Swing Band.

The event was organised by the staff of Cefn Glas, with special thanks to Helen Roberts.

Did you know you can read your GEM online?
bridgend-today.co.uk

'Tell us what you think of the plans to move Library'

I'VE been interested to hear the debate surrounding Bridgend County Borough Council's (BCBC) proposal to move Bridgend Library to Bridgend Recreation Centre.

I can appreciate the rationale behind the idea: Bridgend Library is not meeting Welsh public library standards and the building, attractive as it is, is not very accessible. That means it's not best placed for 21st century needs, especially for disabled people and families.

Most people would also agree with the concept of a thriving Library for Bridgend, and one which is able to attract a wide range of users through the lending materials it offers and other facilities like car parking, toilets and baby changing.

The proposed site at the Rec could, in theory, offer this.

That said, Bridgend Library is historic and well-loved and I, like many others, would be concerned about the future of the building if the facility moved away. I know that some have also expressed concerns about how

FOLLOW THE LEADER



by **MEL NOTT**
Leader of the Bridgend
County Borough Council

older people might access the Rec, which is further away from the bus station, so finding out how Library users travel, is an important part of

the survey. These are all very valid points, which is why the consultation we are carrying out is critical. It challenges us to think carefully about whether the proposal is the right one.

We know a 'life centre' model works well because it's what we have in Pyle, Maesteg and Ogmore Vale.

We have been told that something similar for Bridgend could attract a more diverse range of users through the improved facilities that would be on offer.

But we also need to recognise the concerns that some users of the Wyndham Street branch have expressed about the future of this part of the town centre – concerns I also share.

So I'd strongly encourage users and non-users of the Library to tell us their views on this by filling in a survey online at: bridgend.gov.uk, or via the hard copies available in council buildings including the library and the Rec itself. There's also an easy-read and young person's version available.

Every response will be considered as the council decides a way forward. The closing date is September 21.

FAREWELL TO SCHOOL HEAD



END of term at Corneli Primary School was also the end of an era, with the retirement of headteacher, Mrs Jan Batrick.

Pupils, staff and governors gathered for a special assembly to pay tribute to all

her wonderful achievements and to wish her every happiness in the future.

Mrs Batrick was overwhelmed by the many cards, gifts and good wishes she received and expressed her gratitude to pupils and their families, the community and staff for their generosity and the sup-

port they had given over the years.

Although naturally a little sad to be leaving after 16 years, she is assured that given this continuing support, the school will go from strength to strength in the very capable hands of the new head-teacher, Mr Adrian Mills. SJ

Penybont Lifeguards welcome RNLI members to Ogmore beach

LOCAL surf life-saving club Penybont Lifeguards, welcomed the Royal National Lifeboat Institution at Ogmore beach last Saturday.

Working alongside volunteers from Penybont Lifeguards and RNLI lifeguard crew, RNLI lifeguards will provide safety cover within the Vale of Glamorgan over the summer.

Steve Parker, senior patrol member from Penybont said: "Penybont Lifeguards are pleased to be working in partnership with the RNLI. Our new access slipway at the beach means we will be busier than ever, especially on hot sunny days.

"Lifeguards from Penybont volunteer patrols and RNLI complement each other and will provide an effective rescue service at Ogmore throughout the holidays."

RNLI and Penybont Lifeguards are different charitable organisations but they share a common aim of saving lives.

The Vale Council is working in partnership with RNLI lifeguards who will be on patrol every day throughout the summer season. Volunteers from Penybont Lifeguards will support them on weekends.

Cerys Rudall, Senior RNLI Beach Lifeguard at Ogmore, said:

"The RNLI is delighted with the welcome from Penybont Lifeguards and the response we have already received by members of



the public at Ogmore over the weekend. The fabulous weather meant the beach was busy and we gave out safety advice and assistance to members of the public.

"We had to advise quite a few people about the river. It is deceiving how dangerous the river-mouth at Ogmore is, and we would advise people to swim within the designated red and yellow flags area."

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Councillor hits out at timing of Porthcawl road resurfacing work

HIGHWAYS officers at Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) say they had no choice but to start work resurfacing a main road into Porthcawl.

They responded after a last-ditch appeal from Newton borough councillor, Coun Ken Watts, who criticised the fact that work was starting as schools were breaking up, and asked for a postponement.

Work started yesterday (Wednesday) on the A4106, from the Wig Fach turning,

along 'Three Steps Hill' as far as the A48 roundabout.

On its website, BCBC has given an approximate finish date of August 8.

Coun Watts told The GEM: "It has been a terrible summer so far for traders in the town, and just as the weather is improving, we face the prospect of delays for people using this main road into the town."

"In fact, because there is also work taking place on the Nottage roundabout, there will be delays on both main roads for at least three days - pro-

by PHILIP IRWIN

vided the roundabout work finishes on time on July 27!"

However, BCBC issued a strong response, saying that they had no choice but to start the work now, because the bad weather had already delayed it.

The response also said that no work would take place at weekends.

A spokesman said: "The surfacing work will take up to 12 days to complete and is essential for ensuring that the road meets all

UK standards and continues to be safe for drivers to use.

"We wrote to local councillors two weeks ago to inform them that the surfacing work was ready to begin at this location."

"Unfortunately, subsequent heavy rainfall meant that the work had to be temporarily postponed."

"Given the recent change in weather, it now needs to go ahead in order to avoid incurring additional costs."

"Traffic controls are in place and no work will be carried out at weekends in

order to minimise any potential disruption."

Graham Walter, an independent on Porthcawl town council, told The GEM that he had mixed feelings, particularly as he will be personally affected by the roadworks.

He said: "I think we do need to welcome this work, as councillors have complained about the lack of investment in Porthcawl from BCBC."

"Nevertheless, it is disappointing that it couldn't have been done earlier in the year, or in the autumn."

AMs voice opposition to wind farm plan



Left to right: David Llewellyn (head of planning at BCBC); Coun Ken Watts; Philip Vaughan; Suzy Davies; Stuart Brown (Danygraig resident).

A 1,000-signature petition has been handed in to Bridgend planners objecting to an application to build two wind turbines on Newton Down.

The petition was organised by Porthcawl businessman Philip Vaughan and was handed in by Conservative Coun Ken Watts, who represents Newton.

Residents of Stormy Down are also objecting

and have organised their own petition and letters.

The campaign is being backed by two Welsh Conservative Regional AMs - Byron Davies and Suzy Davies.

Byron Davies AM has been to Stormy to meet residents and Suzy Davies AM was present when the petition was presented to planning officer David Llewellyn.

He said that the application was unlikely to be discussed before the September meeting of

the council's development control committee.

Porthcawl Civic Trust Society has objected on the grounds that the 400-foot high turbines will be visible from Porthcawl, and also from the Glamorgan Heritage Coast. They will stand on land 300 feet above sea level.

Suzy Davies AM said that the proposed turbines were in the wrong place: "I am not against wind power in principle but this location is unsuitable. It is just a few hundred yards from 15 houses and people are naturally worried about noise as well as the overpowering effect they will have, and the damage to visual amenity."

"This site is not in the TAN 8 designated areas for windfarms and is also farmland and not a brownfield site. The fact that so many people have taken exception to the plan speaks volumes."

Byron Davies added that he was worried about the cumulative effect on people in Stormy Down, which has been subject to creeping industrialisation in recent years with various activities taking place, including a cement works and a recycling plant.

Big laughs at Berwyn Centre

A MEMORABLE night of big laughs is in store at the Berwyn Centre, Nantymoel, with a 'Little Wander' comedy night on Friday August 3, at 7.30pm.

The line-up features a mix of professional comedians; with Mike Bubbins, Mark Simmons, Paul James and MC for the evening, Clint Edwards, all guaranteed to entertain.

Mike Bubbins is a regular performer at the Glee Club and has supported popular comedians Rhod Gilbert and Rich Hall on tour.

As organisers of the

Machynlleth Comedy Festival and managers of the comedy tent at the Green Man Festival, Little Wander are vastly experienced at putting on successful, professional comedy shows.

The comedy night is being put on through the Arts Council of Wales' Night Out scheme, which brings professional performances into community buildings at an affordable price.

Tickets for the event cost £6, or three time credits each. Doors and bar open at 7.30pm.

To book tickets, contact the centre on 01656 754915.

Moya says thank you

PLEASE may I, through your letters column, say thank you to the pupils, parents and friends of the Moya Vahey School of Russian Classical Ballet for helping to raise £1,588 for the Richards Parks 737 Marie Curie Cancer Care £million appeal.

A performance last November and a garden party in July were both well supported.

At the garden party, the sun shone, and the dancers from across the Vale performed beautifully.

A special thank you to Peter Clinton and the Old Hall, Cowbridge. Moya Vahey Beynon, Cowbridge.

Did you know you can read your GEM online? bridgend-today.co.uk

Photographer's award highlights RNLI's work



Windsor Rimron with his photographic story of the work of the Porthcawl RNLI Lifeboat Station.

WHEN Porthcawl photographer Windsor Rimron won an Associate of Disabled

Photographer's Society (DPS), Distinction award, he did so through photographs he had taken of the hard work and endeavour shown by Porthcawl's RNLI Lifeboat Station.

Retired plumber Windsor (70), a Porthcawl resident for 47 years and member of the Porthcawl Camera Club for 20 years, has had an interest in photography since first picking up a camera 50 years ago with his father-in-law.

His photographs, depicting the various aspects of life on a lifeboat, were taken while observing the crew's actions with his grandchildren on Sunday mornings.

He told The GEM: "Back in 1972, I bought my first powerboat and joined the local club. Lindsay Knight got me interested in the work of the lifeboats and I still visit his son Stephen, who is on the crew today."

He joined the DPS while visiting a photography show in Birmingham in 2008, and through its magazine has taken part in various competitions, culminating in his Associate Distinction.

He added: "They wanted 15 photographs to tell a story and I thought the best story I can tell is the one of the lifeboats."

"I love photography. There's nothing better to do now I'm retired!"

Windsor donated his work to the station, who are now thinking of

by LEIGH GRUFFYDD SANDERS

starting a competition for other photographers to capture their work.

Lifeboat operations manager, Philip Missen, said of the donation:

"Windsor has become a good friend to many at the station and has supported the crew and the RNLI in many ways over the years. We are delighted that he has achieved this special photographic award and we look forward to working with him again in the future."

Nature reserve gets funding



Cwm Colhuw nature reserve. Picture by: VAUGHN MATTHEWS.

CWM COLHUW nature reserve, near Llantwit Major, has received a financial boost from Environment Wales and Biffa Award, which will enable them to improve footpaths and manage more important wildlife.

Managed by the Wildlife Trust of South and West Wales, this limestone grassland, which also has ash woodland and coastal scrub, is a rare habitat in Wales.

The reserve offers an important habitat for a variety of wildlife including hedgehogs, slow worms, birds such as linnet, whitethroat and bullfinch, and a range of butterflies.

The reserve is also famous for its Iron Age Promontory Fort, located on top of the sea cliffs.

They are aiming to

restore the grasslands and create open areas for flowers and insects to enjoy.

In conjunction with this, the Wildlife Trust will be improving access, undertaking scientific surveys and running community events such as bat walks and moth trapping sessions.

Vaughn Matthews, conservation officer, said: "Improved access to and on the reserve will result in more people being able to enjoy and appreciate wildlife as well as allow us to better manage the reserve."

A water trough has been installed and a small number of live-stock will soon be present to help restore the grassland."

If you are interested in helping the Wildlife Trust at the Cwm Colhuw Nature Reserve, contact Vaughn Matthews on: v.matthews@welsh-wildlife.org. **VM**

A blooming good day!

TO celebrate Hallmark in Bloom - a company-wide gardening competition across all Hallmark Care Homes - green-fingered staff and residents at Bryn Celyn care home, Maesteg, have been busy making their gardens look beautiful.

They also ensured that they are a colourful and sensory haven for their residents.

The home will be judged by Thrive, a

national garden charity that promotes the therapeutic benefits of gardening, on Wednesday, August 1 from 2pm.

Thrive have been working with Hallmark Care Homes to train team members on how best to utilise outdoor spaces to benefit the lives of the residents.

As well as overall and regional winners, categories include: 'Most Resident Involvement', and 'Best Sensory Initiatives'.

For further information, visit: www.hallmarkcarehomes.co.uk.

EIGHTEEN YEARS AFTER WATERSLIDE DRAMA...

Porthcawl doctor is honoured for rescue attempt



Photograph by
MALCOLM NUGENT

ABOVE, left to right: Madeleine Moon MP for Bridgend, Dr Richard Lewis, John David, Dr David Parry, Mr Christopher Morgan, Coun Alana Davies, Coun Brian Davies.

A PORTHCAWL doctor has received a citation for bravery – 18 years after a Cardiff family were involved in a tragic accident on the waterslide in Coney Beach.

Last Friday (July 13) in a ceremony organised by Dr Richard Lewis, the secretary of the Welsh BMA, a commemorative citation was formally presented to Dr David Parry at Porthcawl Museum.

The citation was in recognition of an act of bravery in 1994, following an accident on the waterslide in Coney Beach, in the wake of extreme weather conditions the previous

night. A metal archway, used for decorative lighting, fell into the path of the carriage, which was picking up speed on its way down to the water.

Dr Parry climbed the slide to attend Timothy Morgan, who suffered multiple injuries and who sadly died as a result.

Timothy's father, Christopher, was also badly injured and was treated by Dr Parry.

Mr Christopher Morgan made the trip to Porthcawl to be there for the presentation.

Dr Parry told The GEM: "It was a real shock to be awarded this citation, and it brought back some sad memories."

"I was the doctor on call and, quite by

chance, I was close to the scene when the call came in. I was there before the ambulance.

"Everyone in the carriage had been knocked out of it, but the most seriously injured were Timothy and his father."

"Timothy had landed on the roof of a fairground stall, and his father had fallen all the way to the ground. The only way to reach Timothy was to climb up the waterslide, and then get onto the roof."

Dr Parry did what he could for the father and son until the ambulance arrived to treat the other casualties and then take them to hospital.

Dr Parry decided to ask Porthcawl Museum to keep the citation, and John David, on

behalf of the museum, said it had been created to preserve and display the history of Porthcawl for future generations.

He was delighted to add the gift to the museum's extensive

collection already on display. Also at the ceremony were Bridgend MP Madeleine Moon, Coun Alana Davies, the Mayor of Porthcawl and her consort, Coun Brian Davies, and Dr Richard Lewis.

RSPCA appeal after escaped snake is found

THE RSPCA is appealing for information after a corn snake was found in a Porthcawl garden.

The 12-inch-long snake was found in the Wellfield Avenue area of the town on July 18.

It is estimated that the exotic animal is less than a year old and probably escaped from its owner. It is now in the care of the RSPCA.

RSPCA inspector

Neill Manley said:

"Corn snakes are popular pets but are notorious escape artists! They have an age span of up to 20 years, so this one has a long life to look forward to."

"They are not inexpensive to buy, so an owner in this area of Porthcawl needs to contact us quickly."

The number to call is 0300 123 8904.

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Two sisters tackle monsoon Moonride to help CF charity

AN intrepid pair of sisters battled monsoon-like conditions, to take part in a night-time cycle race in the south-east of England – to raise funds for the Cystic Fibrosis Trust.

Lucy Thomas and Ginnie Bateman left Alexandra Palace in London late on the evening of June 29, heading for the race course in Brighton.

Lucy, whose 18-month-old daughter Nancy has cystic fibrosis, told The GEM: "The long-distance charity bike ride is called the Moonride and the route is 100km."

"As the name suggests, it was cycled at night, and we set off at 11.30pm from central London."

"It was something we had never tried before – cycling through packed London streets and through the night in torrential rain with 20mph headwinds."

"We went up some incredible climbs and equally terrifying descents, all in the pitch dark with only our bike lights for comfort!"

"Despite only starting

the training for the event six weeks before, we managed to complete it in a respectable 5 hours and 40 minutes."

"We were 260th out of the 750 people that took part."

Lucy and Ginnie of Llantwit Major, had put in some vital pre-race training with a demanding taskmaster!

"We were helped by very hard 'spin classes' at Studio 9 in Bridgend with our punishing instructor Rhianon Owens, so a big thanks to her for getting us 'bike fit' after being off a bike for nearly 10 years!"

"My husband Lyn and daughter Nancy drove down to Brighton to meet us on the Saturday and bring our exhausted bodies back home."

"I'd like to thank my neighbour Brian for writing out a step by step guide to help us get across London with our bikes from Paddington Station to Alexandra Palace."

Lucy, Lyn, family and friends have arranged and taken part in numerous events to raise the profile of the CF Trust.

BUCKET COLLECTION
The latest fundraiser involving the Thomas

family and their friends took place at Cardiff Airport.

Lucy explained: "The airport kindly allowed us to do bucket collections on Saturday mornings."

"Together with donations from friends and family, we have raised more than £1,000 for the Cystic Fibrosis Trust."

"Our small community continues to inspire and support us in all our endeavours and we are really humbled by them and would like to thank them all again from the bottom of our hearts."

"Nancy is very lucky to grow up surrounded by all these loving people."

Lucy is keen to do the ride again next year and if other local people would like to take part too, they can contact her and Lyn at:

nowmrstomas@btinternet.com.

To find out more about the CF Trust's fundraising, telephone 0300 373 1100 or email: events@cftrust.org.uk. For more information on the charity, go to www.cftrust.org.uk/

TIM CHAPMAN

MP backs covenants for the Armed Forces

BRIDGEND MP Madeleine Moon recently attended an event at the House of Commons to promote the creation of 'Community Covenants' across the United Kingdom.

Organised by The Royal British Legion, the event highlighted the importance of local communities getting behind the Armed Forces community in their own area, and honouring the principles of the Armed Forces Covenant in practice.

Launched by the Government in 2011 following a successful campaign by the Legion, the Community Covenant scheme aims to transform the relationship between communities and serving and reservist Armed Forces personnel, veterans and their families, for the benefit of both communities.

The Legion is encouraging local authorities to sign a Community Covenant as their own unique commitment to develop mutual understanding, meet the needs of the Armed Forces community and

identify opportunities for closer working in their area. More than 50 Community Covenants have been signed so far, and another 50 are in the pipeline.

The MP said: "I was pleased to show my support for The Royal British Legion and to back its call for local communities to strengthen ties with the Armed Forces community in their own area."

We expect a lot from our Armed Forces and this is one of showing our appreciation of their commitment. Community Covenants are a fantastic way for local authorities and the wider community to show their support for our Armed Forces and their families."

"These Covenants are about securing real improvements in the welfare of Armed Forces personnel, veterans and their families in constituencies across the UK."

"I am pleased that so many local authorities are signing up. Now all of us need to ensure the commitments made really make a difference where it matters – on the ground."

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Regional AM urges BCBC to revive the Transport Interchange

SHADOW Welsh Transport Minister Byron Davies has written to Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) urging them to revive plans for a Transport Interchange in Bridgend.

Mr Davies, also Welsh Conservative regional AM for South Wales West, said that confirmation of the electrification of the south Wales main line through Bridgend had put the question of an interchange back on the agenda.

The interchange, which would take the form of a mini-bus station, was due to have been built on land alongside Bridgend railway station.

It would enable passengers to switch easily between trains and buses as every bus travelling in and out of Bridgend would have been diverted through the station.

But the scheme was deferred by BCBC two months ago when Network Rail said it could not commit to releasing the land that was needed because of uncertainty about electrification.

Mr Davies said that Network Rail should now be in a position to assess how much land

was needed for the electrification equipment at Bridgend and how much would be available for the interchange.

He said: "I understand why Network Rail was reluctant to release land at that time.

"But it can now proceed with working out what will be needed alongside the track for electrification and how much it can release.

"I have also written to them on this matter.

"I know that BCBC was keen to go ahead with the scheme and had managed to secure the funding.

"I am hoping that they can put a package together again quickly so that work on providing the interchange can be done in time for electrification.

"The number of passengers using the railways will rise if journey times are reduced and it is essential that we have joined-up public transport which enables people to switch between rail and road easily."

RAIL BUS

Mr Davies has also urged the council to revisit its decision to scrap the Maesteg rail bus to save money.

"With the Maesteg line also being electrified, it is crucial that people from disadvan-

tagged areas like Caerau and Nantyllyfyllon, are able to access rail services easily.

"It is essential that the advantages of this £2 billion investment reach as many communities as possible, including the top ends of the valleys.

"I feel that a rail bus could be put back at certain times, connecting with the trains taking people to work in Cardiff and those bringing them home at night.

"That should result in much reduced costs."

RNLI's first call to incident

RNLI lifeguards responded to a major first aid incident at Southerndown beach on Sunday July 22, only two weeks after the charity began providing a lifeguarding safety service on the Vale beach.

Lifeguards were asked to assist an elderly woman who had fallen on the rocks.

A member of the public spotted the woman, who had fallen approximately three metres from the rocks to the beach, and called the emergency services.

HM Coastguard requested the help of the charity's lifeguards at 4pm on the Sunday, who immediately rushed to her assistance.

A paramedic was already on the scene as the RNLI lifeguards and local coastguard team arrived. Also, a member of Ogmore Surf Lifesaving Club, who was out training on his board, paddled over to the beach to offer his assistance.

RNLI lifeguards worked with the local coastguard team to carefully transfer the elderly woman, who had a head and shoulder injury as a result of the fall, onto a spinal board.

She was taken to hospital by air ambulance for further treatment.

100 cyclists on charity run



On Saturday July 21, 100 cyclists on the annual charity ride from Porthcawl to Beddau in aid of Cancer Research (Kirsty Elliot), stopped at the Lamb & Flag in Wick to enjoy the beautiful summer sunshine at last, where they were welcomed by the landlord David Bullen before departing for Cowbridge and their final destination and a well-deserved rest.

Vale Show honours a local man with lifetime achievement award



Chairman of the society, Robert Llewellyn presents the award to Richard Gibb at Pancross Farm.

THE Vale of Glamorgan Agricultural Society took the opportunity to present the lifetime achievement award to Richard Gibb of Colwinston, during a farm walk to Pancross Farm, Llancarfan, organised by BOCM Pauls.

Richard started working in the Vale in 1979 advising farmers on arable crop production and grassland management for livestock production.

Chairman of the society, Robert Llewellyn, said: "I was delighted to present this award to Richard Gibb; he is an extremely popular member of the Vale agricultural community."

Richard has worked in research and has even managed a large dairy herd in north Somerset.

For the last 20 years, he has worked for BOCM Pauls, advising livestock producers on their animal feed requirements in the Vale.

Dairy producer Edward Thomas said: "Richard is extremely knowledgeable and has helped us with the arable, grassland and formulating rations for the dairy herd and young stock."

Many farmers throughout the Vale are delighted that such Richard Gibb has received this annual award.

The Vale Show takes place on Wednesday, August 22, at Fônnon Castle Park. There are still a few trade stand places available and exhibitors can find schedules for all the classes on line - entries for horses and livestock close on July 28.

(For further information telephone 01446 710099 or look at the website www.vale-ofglamorganshow.co.uk. NG

Fitness training peaks - ahead of triple challenge!

A TEAM of avid fundraisers from Bridgend-based company Buy As You View have begun their intense training in preparation for the company's up and coming Three Peaks Charity Challenge.

To celebrate its 40th anniversary, Buy As You View employees aim to raise an impressive £40,000 for the BAYV@40 fund, which will be split between seven deserving charities chosen by customers from all over the UK.

In order to be at the required fitness level and to ensure the skills and stamina training is in place, employees and members of the senior management team have been breaking in their hiking boots.

By utilising their surrounding environment, members of the Bridgend branch have been pushing their fitness levels by hiking in the Brecon Beacons, and walking along Ogmore beach and coastline.



ABOVE: David Power is ready for the Three Peaks Challenge.

In further preparation, a group of eight fundraisers have already reached Snowdon's summit in aid of motor neurone disease, inspiring other members of staff to keep going and to continue with their training.

Two adventurous colleagues have even cycled 200 miles in 14

hours through the heart of Wales to show their dedication to this challenge (as seen on page 17).

David Power, a customer service assistant at Buy As You View's head office in Bridgend, said:

"The money raised can change people's lives and allow our cus-

tomers to choose charities that they hold close to their hearts.

"I never thought that I would be climbing three of the UK's highest mountains with my colleagues, but after our training activities I am eager to tackle these giants."

The group will begin their adventure in North Wales at the foot of the UK's highest mountain; Ben Nevis.

After reaching the summit the employees will then journey down to the Lake District to climb Scafell Pike. If that wasn't enough, they continue on to then climb their third and final peak, finishing at Snowdon in North Wales.

The Buy As You View 40th anniversary Fund is still open for entries.

Customers are being urged to nominate their favourite charity, and the winning charity will then have a chance of gaining a percentage of the total money raised.

Customers can do this by contacting Rachel Morris on 01656 754543, or: Rachel.morris@bayv.co.uk.

Around the Bay swim in Porthcawl

THIS Saturday is the annual Porthcawl Life Guard Club (PLGC) 'Around the Bay' swim, which takes place on Coney beach at approximately 2pm.

Registration is between 1pm and 1.45pm at our club house, which is the yellow building on Rhych point.

Entry is £10 for the short course and £15 for the long course and price includes a hot drink and bacon roll or soup and a roll for all who enter.

There are changing and shower facilities available for all competitors and there is ample car parking.

We will be running a barbecue from 12 noon and tea, coffee and cold drinks will also be available to purchase.

The weather is looking good for the weekend, so why not come down with the family and check out our fantastic club house and extensive range of equipment?

We are always looking for new members of all ages and abilities. Come along on Saturday and see what you are missing!

DAVE DAVIES

PENCOED COMPREHENSIVE TURNS UP HEAT WITH A CLASSIC DISCO MUSICAL!

Photographs by
IAN DIXON

IT really was a night to remember at Pencoed Comprehensive as pupils danced their platforms off in an explosive production of *Disco Inferno*.

Set in the hot summer of 1976, it tells the story of Jack, a nightclub barman who dreams of being a rock star.

Jack, played by Harry Bruford, meets Lady Marmalade (Joanne Mallett), the devil's assistant and promises to give up his soul in return for fame and fortune, but with tragic consequences for him and his best friend Tom, played by Jack Hiscocks.

Kay Smith is head of drama and performing arts at Pencoed and this was her first major school production after moving to Pencoed from Llantwit Major two years ago.

Last year, the drama club presented a fantastic cabaret style variety show which allowed Kay to get a real feel for the cast and also the performance space.

She said: "Our shows in Pencoed are performed in the sports hall, which is has a large audience capacity but small stage, so we decided to turn the whole venue into a nightclub complete with the first two rows of audience seated at tables as part of the set"

It was the biggest school production ever at Pencoed in terms of staging, lighting and sound and Adrian Bamford of Neath Music, who operated the sound was very impressed by the standard, saying: "Every year, we work on a show that takes place at Pencoed Comprehensive school."

"The director of drama there is an old friend of mine and, whatever image you may have in your head of a school production, trust me, it's not even close!"

"Disco inferno is one of a bunch of contemporary shows with a slightly tongue-in-cheek plot, but amazing 70s music."

"The vocal and acting performances were also stunning and I often had to remind myself that I was working in a school!"

Jo Davies, a parent of one of the children in the school, was blown away by the talent on stage saying "I went to watch it twice! I am so proud of each and everyone of the company. The passion that they put into their performances was amazing!"

Disco Inferno was a great first choice of main show for Kay, but she did foolishly think it would be a breeze to direct as all the children would know the songs!

Clearly, she was the only one in the rehearsal room to remember 'Hot Stuff', 'Some Girls Will' and 'Let's Groove Tonight!' - when they started rehearsing nine months ago.

She has, however, been overwhelmed by the amount of cards, gifts, emails and texts that have come into school, commending the show, and can't wait to start on next year's offering, which is *The Wiz*!

CAST LIST

JACK - Harry Bruford, **JANE** - Rebecca Morgan, **TOM** - Jack Hiscocks, **MAGGIE** - Megan Mattraver, **HEATHCLIFFE** - Zak Rossaye, **KATHY** - Bethan Rees, **TERRY** - JIMMY SAVILLE - Zack Franks, **LADY MARMALADE** - Joanne Mallett, **MISSY MARMALADE** - Georgia Griffiths, **DUKE** - Rhys Causon, **NICK DIABLO** - Harry Prior, **LILY** - Jevan Cannon.

BACKING SINGERS - Cherish Bevan, Olivia Brown, Charlotte Jones, Livvy Bruford, Ellie Barham, Ellie Taylor.

PRIEST - Ben Warman, **COMPARE** - Joe Thomas, **BBC PRODUCER** - Jamie Powell, **PANDORA** - Lucy Hart, **PHOTOGRAPHER** - Ben Warman, **ABBA** - Harry Prior, Ben Warman, Miss Alex Milton and Mrs Danielle Smith. **NEWS READERS** - Suzanne Hodgetts, Zoe Morgan.

ANNOUNCERS - Gabrielle David, Zoe Morgan, Jamie Powell, Joe Thomas. **'THE LADS'** - Harry Prior, Ben Warman, Joe Thomas.

DANCERS - Maya Gore Yr 7, Ellie Jones Yr 8, Nathan King Yr 8, Thomas Pound Yr 9, Sophie Dacey Yr 9, Carwen Sheriden Yr 10, Leah Lent Yr 10, Sian Thomas Yr 10, Paige Hunt Yr 10, Caitlin Davies Yr 11, Zack Franks Yr 13.

CHORUS - Gabrielle David, Maya Gore, Olivia Williams, Rachel Lane, Josh East, Connor Gunningham, Darcy Harris, Lana Parsons, Georgina Barham, Natalie Richards, Hannah Sawyer, Elenie Kenward, Nathan King, Ellie Jones, Jamie Powell, Jack Cotterall, Sophie Dacey, Thomas Pound, Charlotte Morgan, Carys Rees, Lily May Evans, Leah Lent, Suzanne Hodgetts, Zoe Morgan, Sian Thomas, Carwen Sheriden, Paige Hunt, Lucy Hart, Sam Williams, Emily Manley, Caitlin Davies, Sophie Bees.



Every member of the cast was clearly putting their heart into the show.

Can you give Sandy a home?

The GEM is in partnership with the Dog's Trust to find caring homes for animals in their charge at the Bridgend Rehoming Centre. (Telephone: 01656 725219)

SANDY is a three-year-old crossbreed - an energetic, bright young dog who will do anything for a treat!

Sandy really enjoys her training, and is very quick to learn new tricks.

She is great fun to be around, and after a good play session with her carers she loves nothing more than a good cuddle - and gives plenty of licks.

She is looking for a home with someone who will enjoy keeping her busy, and give her all the cuddles she wants. She is a bouncy dog so can live with children of 11 years and up.

There is a video of Sandy with her carer at: www.dogstrust.org.uk, just go to the Bridgend homepage.



SANDY.

If you would like to offer Sandy a home, call 01656 725219, or pop in to visit us at Court Colman, Pen-y-fai, Bridgend, CF31 4NG.

We are open 12 noon-4pm every day except Monday, and will be opening late until 8pm on Wednesday throughout the summer months.

LINDA FEAGAN



The sun shines over the 2012 Porthcawl Carnival as revellers take to the streets



The Ancient Briton float offered a history of British music, including the Beatles in their Sergeant Pepper phase, The Who, Amy Winehouse, and even Robert Palmer's model girls in the black dresses and red lipstick!



ALL DRESSED UP AND READY TO GO!

All photographs by
KEITH E. MORGAN



The Pre Hee Cavemen, about to be 'booked' by PCSO Sharyn Phileman.

THE sun shone on the Porthcawl Buckaneers' Carnival on Saturday, July 21, as spectators thronged the streets around Porthcawl to see the mile-long procession of floats, walkers and street entertainers.

There were float entries from Porthcawl Council, The New Brogden and Ancient Briton public houses, Nantymoel Dancers, Performance House, Little Inspirations, Porthcawl First, two floats from Happy Valley, Porthcawl Rock Club and, to entertain, Arthur Beale's.

There were numerous groups of walkers who were joined by the Westside Allstars and the Pre Hee men to entertain the crowds.

All the emergency services were in attendance and there was a true carnival atmosphere to the town.

On the carnival field, the crowds were further entertained by local groups: the Porthcawl Ukelele band, Deltas Marching band, Penybont gymnastics

and the Nantymoel dancers.

The winner of the best overall float was awarded to Happy Valley for 'Chitty Chitty Bang Bang' and other float winners were: The Rock Club, the Ancient Briton and the Performance House.

The judges found it very difficult to select the winners because the standard of floats was outstanding.

The 'walking' winner was Porthcawl Town Athletic Club.

There was a festival feel to the field and we were entertained by DJ Robbie and Lee Jukes Of Bridge

FM, who has been a stalwart over the last seven years.

Thousands of pounds were raised for local causes on the day, and the Porthcawl Buckaneers would like to thank all the collectors for their hard work. The presentation to local groups will be held with the Christmas Morning swim in January 2013.

KM
Pick up your copy of The GEM next week for more photographs from the Porthcawl Buckaneers' Carnival.



Olympic torchbearers Arthur Beale and Dave Jones were pulling a heavy load!



Porthcawl Town junior footballers joined the procession

ABOVE: Carnival supremo Kerry Marlow, with Gwyneth Poacher of the Sandville.

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Out and About with The GEM

TY HAFAN WINNERS

THE following are winning numbers in the Ty Hafan Crackerjackpot lottery draw number D732.

● £2,000: 516290.
● The rollover, which now stands at £3,500, was not won this week.
● £10: 169131, 623968, 196462, 281402, 653471, 420070, 490240, 912634, 206866, 413650, 723595, 680345, 198580, 751161, 376114, 650229, 252784, 107659, 559254, 182954.

● £5: 139351, 674277, 887913, 307354, 152130, 239105, 886144, 833827, 824499, 216505, 283401, 740410, 726708, 355746, 129081,

862276, 987356, 545046, 413013, 299430, 942384, 325128, 265269, 633586, 169196, 113004, 999057, 130209, 954029, 173149, 305914, 704945, 630307, 324799, 427837, 328808, 694974, 233708, 574420, 811904, 761750, 479206, 240420, 252839, 444865, 919028, 359727, 337854, 305934, 418045, 669198, 597464, 896278, 894081, 431646, 750162, 704748, 876762, 165136, 851978, 681919.

The GEM cannot be held responsible for any errors or omissions contained in the above.

For lottery information please call telephone 02920 672062.

What's on and where

Open garden

THE garden at 68 Redlands Road, Penarth will be open to the public on Sunday next at 2pm-5pm, NOT from 11am-5pm, as previously stated.

Free summer school

A FREE, two day summer school for years 8-9 pupils interested in science and technology, is being held next week.

Co-ordinated by Careers Wales EBP (Education Business Partnership), this year's TechnoClub takes place between 9.30am and 3.30pm on July 25-26 at the Llandaff campus of Cardiff Metropolitan University.

For more details, contact Sue Gooding or Linda Canning at Careers Wales on 02920 203700.

History speaker

RHOOSE and District History Society are hosting a talk by Alan Underhill about 'Notable Welsh' on Friday, July 27 at 7.30pm in the rear hall of Rhose Community Centre, Stewart Road. Tickets (available at door) are £1 adults, 50p children under 16.

Bingo

THE management

committee of Rhose Community Hall, Stewart Road, Rhose is holding another fundraising bingo afternoon at the hall on Saturday (July 28) at 2.30pm.

Beach clean

FRIENDS of Barry Beaches will hold their next monthly litter pick at the Knap beach on Sunday, July 29, meeting on Knap Terrace car park at 3pm.

Concert

BRIDGEND Male Voice Choir, who were National Eisteddfod winners in 2004 and 2006, are performing in St Illtud's Church, Llantwit Major next week.

The concert takes place on Friday, August 3 at 7.30pm.

Tickets: £5 adult, £3 students, from Graham Morgan at the Old White Hart, Llantwit Major. Call 01446 790132, or 07948 485325 for details.

Reunion

A REUNION has been organised for the staff of the former Western Welsh/Nation Welsh bus depot in Barry to mark the 20th anniversary of its closure.

It will take place at 7pm on August 8 at the West End Club, St Nicholas Road in Barry.

Why the Smith family are stepping out to walk for Marie Curie

IN the final countdown to the Marie Curie Cancer Care Walk Ten event at Margam Park on Saturday, August 4 – the charity is still urging people to sign up.

The event, now in its second year, has a new route, and entertainment from Bryncoch Male Voice Choir, whose chairman, Colin Williams, said: "We are fully aware of the role played by local Marie Curie nurses in their care of terminally ill patients, and we are only too happy to sign up to such events."

There will also be songs from the Great American Songbook, sung by Dan and Laura Curtis.

Both acts are giving up their time completely free of charge and the charity is grateful for their support, which will help more care being provided for patients in their own homes or in the Penarth hospice.

An entire family is among those signed up for the walk. Mair Smith's brother, unfortunately, was diagnosed with a brain tumour and needed around the clock care. Mair and her family decided that they would provide this care for him, as they wanted to make sure he could stay at home where he was happiest. Mair said: "We were told about the Marie Curie Cancer Care nurses by our district nurse, because we'd never really understood what work they did in the



ABOVE: David Smith and Sharon Sweeney, who are taking part this year alongside the Bryncoch Male Voice Choir.

area. I have to say it was a God-send, as we had them in the day-time, which was invaluable to us as a family, especially when my brother needed to be bathed.

"The nurses treated him with such care and like a human being.

"I can't thank them enough for all the kind work that they did before he passed away."

Mair's daughter Sharon decided to sign up the entire family to take part in Walk Ten to raise funds for Marie Curie Cancer Care, and they are all looking forward to the event.

Sharon said: "It's a great chance for us to do something as a family and give back to Marie Curie Cancer Care for the support they gave us earlier this year."

"I encourage everyone to sign up and take part in Walk Ten on August 4."

To register for your nearest Walk Ten, or for more information, go to: www.mariecurie.org.uk/walkten or call 08700 340040; or email: claire.notman@mariecurie.org.uk.

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The TARDIS has landed, just minutes away from where the iconic BBC series, Dr Who, is filmed in Cardiff!

We have two adult and two children's tickets to give away to the Dr Who Experience, the fantastic interactive experience letting visitors get up close to incredible sets, costumes and props!

After a successful run in London's Olympia 2 exhibition centre, the Dr Who Experience has just moved to its new home in Cardiff Bay, where visitors to the attraction will also be treated to new items to be on show to the public for the very first time!



For your chance to
win tickets, just tell
us who currently
plays The Doctor?

Send your answers, marked 'Dr Who Competition' to Glamorgan Gem, Graig House, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge by August 3rd. The judge's decision is final – good luck! Each family ticket allows entry of 4 people (2 adults and 2 children under the age of 16) into the attraction. Tickets are valid until 9 December 2012, excluding Tuesdays. Tickets are subject to availability.

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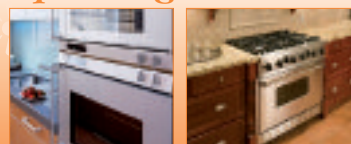
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LET'S ALL GET BEHIND OUR EIGHT WELSH OLYMPIANS!

IT'S been a busy year of celebrations thus far, with the Queen's Diamond Jubilee and then the Olympic torch relay, which will culminate with the start of the London Olympic Games tomorrow.

The citizens of the Vale and Bridgend county boroughs have eight sporting warriors ready to take up arms and fight for medals, but who are they, and when are they competing?

First up is footballer **Craig Bellamy** (33), who resides in Peterston-super-Ely, whose Olympic schedule actually gets under way a day early (today) as the Team GB men's football team face Senegal at Manchester United's Old Trafford Stadium.

The Liverpool striker has amassed 69 caps for Wales and appeared for a host of big clubs, includ-

ing Manchester City, Newcastle United and Celtic. His quest for gold runs until the gold medal match on August 11.

There are two Vale swimmers for readers to cheer on. Firstly, Barry-born **David Davies** (27) will be competing for Team GB in the 1,500m discipline, freestyle. He holds a bronze in the 1,500m from Athens 2004, his personal best and a British record in that event, and followed that up with silver in the 10km marathon at Beijing in 2008. His discipline begins on July 28, with the medal events on Saturday, August 4.

Penarth's 19-year-old **Ieuan Lloyd** goes into his first Olympics as the world No 28, and will compete in the 200m freestyle and 4x200m freestyle events. A double 2011 European junior champion, he also gets under way on July 28, with his individual medal event on that day, and the 4x200m medal events taking place on Tuesday, July 31.

Cyclist **Nicole Cooke** (29), who grew up in Wick in the Vale and attended Brynteg Comprehensive School in Bridgend, is one of world cycling's top road racers. A gold medalist in Beijing (the first for Wales in 36 years), she also became the only cyclist that year to win the Olympic and world title double. She will compete on Sunday July 29.

Barry boxer **Andrew Selby** (23), ranked No 1 in the AIBA rankings, and a former Rhosne Boxing Club competitor, will box for TeamGB at fly-weight. His campaign kicks off on Monday, July 30, with his division's medal events taking place on Sunday, August 12.

The 400m hurdler **Rhys Williams** (28), from Bridgend, son of Welsh rugby legend JJ Williams, will be hoping to ease through alongside Team GB's athletics captain Dai Greene.

Having triumphed at this year's European Championships in Helsinki recently, he will be hopeful of carrying that form in to the Olympics.

His Games kick-off on August 3, with the medal events three days later on August 6.

Wales' sole triathlete is 28-year-old **Helen Jenkins**, who lives in Bridgend.

The three-time ITU World Championships gold medalist is one of the favourites for London, and will want to put the disappointment of her 21st place finish in Beijing to rest. She competes on Saturday, August 4.

Finally, we have Penarth-born discus thrower **Brett Morse** (23). The British under-23 and Welsh record holder's form has dipped recently, but he will be hoping that changes in London. He will compete from August 6-7.

LEIGH GRUFFYDD SANDERS

Cadet donates to the Legion

AT a meeting of the Barry Army Cadets on July 19, Lance Corporal Jack Burnett presented £40 to the Barry branch of the Royal British Legion.

On Armed Forces Day, he was in his Army Cadet's uniform and held a collection for the RBL Poppy Appeal at his School, Barry Boys

Comprehensive.

It was a fine effort by this young cadet, and he was thanked by the Barry branch at a presentation by Legion Poppy Appeal organiser, Mr Steve Whitehorn, in the presence of the Barry Town Mayor, Coun Les Sword, the Barry branch president, Mr Keith Harris, and chairman, Mr Stan Smith. DBS



ABOVE: Lance Corporal Jack Burnett hands over the cheque to the Barry branch of the Royal British Legion.

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BARRY ARTS FESTIVAL



FRIDAY 27TH JULY - SUNDAY 5TH AUGUST 2012



Fri 27th July, 8pm Ship Hotel
Taran Tickets reduced to £4

Two days before they represent Wales in the Interceltic festival in France, Barry-based folk band play their "innovative mix of traditional Welsh music welded to driving riffs and throbbing beats". Support by folk rock band Adran D



Sat 28th July 2-3pm Windsor Road Church £5

Del Rey

Women in American Music follows the development of the music from classic blues to swing and rocking hillbillies, through the stories of the diverse and interesting women that played music from 1900 to 1950.

Sat 28th July 8pm West End Club £10



Del Rey

Del Rey dazzles with her mastery of the Resophonic guitar, her flawless finger picking style conjuring up two handed boogie woogie piano lines, and then she proceeds to amaze you with her dexterity on the humble ukulele, an instrument you will never look at in the same way again. Del will be supported by local band Jelly Roll Jones.

Sun 29th July: 1.00-6pm
(doors open for a performance of workshop pieces at 5pm) WRC Participants £10, performance £3



Choral day with Jeff Howard

Leading UK choral conductor Jeff Howard will lead a mix of Royal, Military and Jenkins pieces – a must for anyone involved in the current revival of choral singing. Please bring your own refreshments.

Mon 30th July 10am onwards WRC Free



Mural day

Becci Holmes, a local artist, has designed a mural on the theme of Barry. Anyone can come along and help paint a section between 10-12 and 2-4. Children 11 and under accompanied by an adult. The finished mural will be on display at Windsor Rd on Friday 3rd August. Other craft activities and practical demonstrations will be happening during this family-friendly day. Local authors including Catherine Jones, Dave Alexander and Michelle Briscoe will be talking about their books between 1.30 and 4pm.

Tues 31st July 8pm Masonic Hall £12



Summer songs - with Tim & Suzannah

Compered by local funny guy Mark Thompson, chill out to timeless classics by artists such as Natalie Cole, Michael Buble, Norah Jones and Bobby Darin. Then when the sun goes down get up and dance to the perfect summer playlist! Ticket includes buffet and close up magic with Simon.

Wed 1st August 7.30 Board Room, Dock Offices £10

Poetry reading by Grahame Davies and Tony Curtis

Tony Curtis and Graham Davies will read from their own work. Tony was born in Carmarthen and now lives in Barry. Grahame is a Welsh poet and writer who has won numerous prizes, including the Wales Book of the Year Award.

Thur 2nd August 11am-1pm Barry Library £10

Creative writing workshop with Tony Curtis.

Only 2 spaces left! Contact dot.connell@virgin.net to book one of the final places

Thur 2nd August 8pm Masonic Hall £10

Boyd Clack

Boyd comes to Barry Arts Festival on Thursday the 2nd of August to perform for the first half of the open mic night at the Masonic Hall, Barry. Festival organisers were at a loss to know how to replace the Amigos who have sadly been forced to withdraw from the concert planned for that night and they have planned an open mic fundraiser for Ty Hapus dementia centre in Barry.

Fri 3rd August 7.30pm Board Room, Dock Offices £12

Gillian Clarke

The National Poet of Wales will read and reminisce about her childhood in Barry. Gillian Clarke was awarded the Queen's Gold Medal for Poetry 2010 and the Wilfred Owen Award 2012.

Sun 5th August 8pm Ship Hotel (upstairs room) £3

Barry musician & sound artist Chris Young premieres "Bricks and mortar", written for the festival.

Wall-hanging Project

All over Barry and beyond squares have been made for a commemorative wall-hanging. It has been sewn together and is now over 7ft tall and 6ft wide. Come and see it on Friday the 3rd August between 10 and 4pm in WRC. The community mural will also be on display.

THE FRINGE

These events are being run by partner organisations

Mon 30th July - Fri 3rd August 10am-4pm Crossway Methodist Church

Pukka's Summer Sizzler - Week of performing fun on the theme "boy bands". Ages 3-10. Pukka is also offering childcare daily from 8-10am, and 4-6pm for £10 per session. The whole package £160 for the week.

Mon 13th - Fri 17th Aug 10am-4pm

Pukka's (2nd) Summer Sizzler - Another week of performing fun with "Chicago". Ages 10+. £80 for the 5 days.

For bookings and details contact Sarah-07917881220 or email pukkaproductions@yahoo.co.uk

Fri 3rd August 10am-4pm WRC

Baruc Art Group Open Day. Come and see the work of Windsor Road Church's resident artists! Free

Fri 3rd August 2-4pm WRC

Alan Sinclair, Affordable Housing Enabler, will be available to clarify and discuss a project aimed at providing studio space/accommodation for local artists, hopefully in the Barry area.

Mon 30th July-Fri 3rd August 10am-4pm WRC Free

PIPS The Positive Image Photographic Society will display a selection of prints. Club members will also be available to answer questions about photography and the club.

VOGA Vale of Glamorgan Artists are exhibiting work in various media.

Barry Camera Club a display of members' work from the past year.

Local unaffiliated artists will also be exhibiting

Mon 30th July-Fri 3rd August 11am-5pm Canonhill Art Space, Canon St

Art4u Exhibition of "Between the Lines", Glyn Pooley's drawings and photographs of local people. Free but donations welcome. www.art4uwales.org.uk

Sun 29th July 2-8pm Knap Lake

Art4u Friendship Concert 29th July 2-8pm. Come and enjoy the sounds and relaxed atmosphere of Art4u's second gathering of talented musicians, local and not-so-local. Free, but donations welcome. www.art4uwales.org.uk

Tue 31st July 12-1pm, and 1-2.30pm WRC £4

Superstars director Chris Bullen leads street dance workshops. 12-1pm age 10-13, 1-2.30pm age 14+ Booking essential. Phone Chris on 07531814820.

Sat/Sun 4th and 5th of August 2-6pm Victoria Park, Barry

It's back! And it's going to be even better than last year's huge success. Local musicians, singers and choirs including Barry Ladies, Vale Voices and Barry Male Voice come together on the Saturday. The Sunday will rock with bands and Peter Karrie.

HOW TO BUY TICKETS:

You can buy tickets in two ways: Online at **www.porthceri.co.uk** (via Paypal).

Or from local outlets: **Gifted** 4 High Street, Barry CF62 7DZ, 01446 721339
Barry Eye Centre 87 Holton Road, Barry CF63 4HG, 01446 745606, barryeyecentre.co.uk
JPL Sound 267 Holton Road, Barry CF63 4HT, 01446 722711, www.jplsound.co.uk

POWER PEDALLING FROM PIER TO PIER



NEIL GRIFFITHS AND RYAN PAYNE.

TWO adventurous charity fundraisers cycled 200 miles from Bangor pier to Penarth pier in 14 hours for the Bridgend-based Buy As You View at 40 charity fund.

Neil Griffiths and Ryan Payne travelled through the heart of Wales, including Snowdonia National Park and the Brecon Beacons before finishing their journey in Penarth.

Buy As You View is currently aiming to raise £40,000 for seven sepa-

rate charities across the regions they operate in to celebrate their 40th anniversary.

Neil Griffiths, warehouse distributor at Buy As You View, said: "I am no stranger to cycling long distances as I cycle 200 miles to and from work every week, but I have never attempted that distance in just 14 hours before."

"Ryan and I knew it was going to be a challenge, especially as we had to cycle through the winding, steep country roads in the Snowdonia National Park - but it was fantastic."

'Dairy farmers being squeezed out of existence' - SAYS CONSERVATIVE MP



ABOVE: Alun Cairns MP, Richard Street, Abigail Reader, John Hanks, and Emma Street at the meeting to urge supermarkets and milk processors not to cut their prices.

VALE MP Alun Cairns last week threw his weight behind local dairy farmers protesting against cuts in milk prices paid by supermarkets.

He agreed with farmers at a protest meeting in Westminster that they were "being squeezed out of existence".

The meeting involved hundreds of farmers from across the UK, including many from the local area.

Mr Cairns welcomed a pledge of £5million from the UK Government to

support the dairy industry, but he stated that the Welsh dairy industry needs urgent support from the Welsh Government to protect jobs, as producers face cuts in farm-gate prices.

"Last week, serious concerns were raised about the impact of a cut of 1.7 pence per litre imposed by Robert Wiseman Dairies. Many milk processors have cut the price paid to dairy farmers for this liquid milk in recent times."

"These cuts mean that most farmers would be selling milk for less than it costs to produce," the MP said.



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PENARTH AND DISTRICT RAMBLERS

Ramblers follow in historic tram tracks

RECENTLY, Phil and Barrie stepped in to lead a replacement walk for Penarth and District Ramblers, and having parked at the Cray (Crai) reservoir, the group of 10 walkers set off on an overcast morning, with sunny periods throughout the day.

The reservoir was built between 1898 and 1906 by the Swansea Corporation, originally to supply water to the Swansea area in an area known for its high rainfall and, more importantly, upstream from the industrialised area of the Tawe Valley. They headed south-east across the wet and boggy moorland and followed the Nant Gylhrych river, climb-

ing up into the forest where they stopped for morning coffee before continuing along forestry paths to Bwlch y Duwynt.

Changing course, they turned southwest, met a group of youngsters who were taking part in the Duke of Edinburgh's gold award scheme and climbed gently up Fan Gylhrych, where the trig point stands at 725-metres, with its 360-degree spectacular views.

John Christie, a wealthy Scottish entrepreneur, bought the Crown Allotment of Fforest Fawr (the great forest) in 1819 and built the Brecon Forest Tramroad, which crossed the north and west flanks of Fan Gylhrych.

Later, the Neath and Brecon Railway was constructed, which

followed part of the route of the old tram road and which eventually closed in the 1960s.

After lunch, the group moved on to another forest between the Nant Byfre and Nant yr Wydd streams and experienced a sharp rain shower, then trekked a very wet track back to their cars.

On July 28, meet at 9am at Cogan for an 8.5-mile moderate/hard walk at Parc Cwm Darran near Bargoed.

Contact Clive on 029 2065 4156.

On August 2, meet at 7pm opposite the Colcot Arms pub on Colcot Road, Barry for a three or four-mile easy/moderate walk at New and Old Wallace Farms.

Contact Geraint on 029 2051 5278.

JOY STRANGWARD

Music tuition in memory of young Cerys

THE Cerys Potter Foundation is supporting the Cardiff county and Vale of Glamorgan Music Service by funding innovative music tuition at two Vale schools.

The foundation was set up in memory of Cerys Potter, aged nine, who died in a rafting accident in Turkey in 2010.

Cadoxton Primary School and St Joseph's Primary School were given a total of £6,000 for lessons in string instruments and African drumming.

Cerys' mum, Julie Potter, said: "This is inclusive - every child in the class will be given the same opportunity to

learn, and if there is a shining talent, we may be able to offer a disadvantaged child that extra bit of support."

Cerys loved singing, dancing, acting, and playing the piano and recorder. The committee felt that it would be an excellent opportunity for the charity to give its support to two classes in Vale schools.

The foundation aims to provide financial support, equipment and resources to assist children who might not otherwise have the opportunities to nurture and develop performing arts and musical talent.

For more information on the Cerys Potter Foundation, visit: www.ceryspotterfoundation.org.

Spooky memory of Dunraven Castle!

WITH reference to a recent GEM article, my sister and I attended a Workers' Educational Association (WEA) course at Dunraven Castle in about 1949.

We stayed there over one weekend together with other students; the female students slept in a dormitory and presumably so did the men.

Large wardrobes, as big as a small room, were situated in the dormitory, available for us to hang the few clothes we had brought with us.

We had been told about the ghostly presence of the 'Blue Lady' who was reputed to haunt the castle. Come bedtime, I retreated into one of the wardrobes to

change into my 'blue nightdress'. Not noticing that I was absent from the main room, lights were turned off.

Imagine how the students felt when I suddenly emerged from the wardrobe in my blue nightdress...shock at first and then lots of laughter!

At the end of the weekend, a photograph was taken of the whole group, male and female students. I haven't got a copy of it, which is a pity, as it would provide an interesting reminder of the many WEA classes held there over several years.

The WEA still carries out its core duty of providing educational opportunities for the general community. Dilys Colbourne Barry

Show boosts appeal

THE Vintage Model Railway Exhibition organised by Bernard Honeysett on July 15 in aid of All Saints Organ Appeal, raised £280.

A steady stream of visitors throughout the day included young children, dads and grandparents enjoying the two running lines, which consisted of a variety of locomotives, including a Clockwork No2 Special loco that had not turned a wheel for 50 years, gallantly managing three circuits.

The event also included many other items within the static display, prior to 1928 to more modern replica locomotives, and rolling stock from the 1930s and 1940s.

The Hogwarts' Express was enjoyed by all (including Emma the Asst Curate) with its working lights and the engine emitting real smoke.

Thanks also to Alun Thomas, who sold nearly all his cardboard house models and donated his takings to the event.

Grateful thanks to Vina for organising the raffle, and Mark, Kate and Bernard for supporting refreshments and setting up the event.

Roadworks
ROADWORKS:
A4055 Leckwith Road, Leckwith;
Barry Docks Link Road, junction of Coldbrook Road and Argae Lane;
A48 Cowbridge bypass and A48 Sycamore Cross;
A4050 Port Road, junction with Pencoedre Lane, Barry.

The Bear Hotel, Cowbridge

How a casual chat in the bar of his home-town local became a life-changing experience for hotel owner



FLASHBACK: Julian Hitchcock - the youngest hotel manager in the country.

WHEN a 22-year-old Vale man on a trainee work placement at London's Hotel Europa came home for the weekend and popped into the bar of his 'local' for a pint with some pals, little did he realise it would be a life-changing experience.

For his 'local' was one of Cowbridge's most iconic landmarks, the historic Bear Hotel, whose roots date back to the founding of the town in the 13th century by Richard de Clare, Lord of Glamorgan, who seized the manor of Llanbleddin in 1245, and subsequently granted Cowbridge its first

charter in 1254.

The young Vale man in question was Julian Hitchcock, and a casual chat over the bar with the manager that night in 1982 led to the former student at Cardiff College of Food & Technology being offered a job on the spot - as the hotel's assistant manager!

When the manager left just a few months later, for pastures new, the then owner,

Porthcawl businessman Howard Lewis, offered a dumbstruck Julian the chance to become the youngest hotel manager in Britain.

(Remarkably, yet another chance encounter in the front bar of The Bear was also to change the direction of his life - for it was there that he met his future wife, Esther).

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 19)

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The Bear Hotel, Cowbridge

After the low point came the take-off!

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 18)
Earlier, during a brief period on the staff of the Midland Bank in Cowbridge (now HSBC), a customer had advised a frustrated Julian to "take a change of direction" and set him on a rollercoaster ride of ever-rapid career developments.

In 1984, he was asked to take over the Three Salmon's at Usk, in addition to managing the Bear (he also became responsible for the company's Soul Plance and Tappers Bar in Mill Lane, Cardiff) and, subsequently, the St Mellons Hotel & Country Club – at the age of just 26.

A high point came in 1990 when he was asked to take charge of the 4-star New House Country Hotel, which was opened in 1990 by the then Welsh Secretary of State, Peter Walker – but the low point came a year later, when recession forced the whole group into receivership.

Julian and Esther were forced to drastically re-assess and acquired the Bush Inn at St Hilary, concentrating all of their efforts there, until one day in May 1992, an accountant friend, Peter Dewey, suggest-

ed that he buy The Bear.

The couple and their three children, Fred, Charles and Lydia (their youngest son, Harry, came along later) took over the Bear, in partnership with Julian's brother, Mark, and Peter, leaving Julian's mum in charge at the Bush, which has since been sold.

The mellow old Cowbridge building, which had begun life as a medieval town house for local gentry, and then became a noted 18th century coaching inn, was "quite run down", and badly in need of a modern makeover, Julian recalls.

It has since undergone an extensive but discreet refurbishment over several years, designed to ease it painlessly into the 21st century – epitomised by the mysterious 'Bear Pit' vault.

Believed to date back to the 12th-13th century, it became a smart, unique restaurant, as the one-time hostelry was transformed into a 36-bedroom hotel – "all but one are double rooms" (Julian says proudly) with 64 full and part time staff, and all modern – without losing the essential old world charm that



ABOVE: Fundraising group The Bear Back Riders: Julian (far left), wife Esther, Freddie Hitchcock, Geoff and Isabel Graham, Paul and Caroline Hole and Nigel and Marianne England, pictured at a fundraising summer ball in the New House Country Hotel, Cardiff.

makes it such an enduring social magnet for local diners and visitors alike.

The old Bear's younger sibling, Oscar's, opened a few doors away in 2005 (and another in Cardiff), but the heartening success story of a local business family 'made good' does not end there.

Its expanded Town & Country Hotels' portfolio has included the four-star New House Hotel, Cardiff, The Three Salmon's at Usk (later sold), and the Coed-y-Mwstwr at Coychurch.

In 2004, Town & Country Catering was launched, and this year has achieved a record – with 42 wedding functions booked in marquees and castles around Wales. However, Julian's special affection for the old Bear at Cowbridge is clear, as he emphasises concern for maintaining its unique, historic character, while ensuring that it fulfils the ever-changing demands of a more modern age.

Like all venerable

old buildings steeped in history, the Bear retains an air of mystery, along (of course) with some non-paying 'guests'... "Yes, we do have a couple of resident ghosts here" says Julian with a smile.

It seems there had been a blaze at the hotel during the early part of the last century in which a seven-year-old girl had sadly perished:

"On separate occasions, three different couples staying here have each reported seeing an image of their seven-year-old daughter in the room and then a strong smell of burning."

In reception, where there used to be a staircase, he recalls, a



Picture: Mike Wilcock.

The courtyard at The Bear affords customers an outdoor seated area to enjoy their food.

porter had reported seeing a pair of legs disappearing up the non-existent staircase and directly into the ceiling!

"I had a bad experience myself. While working late here one night on paperwork I heard a voice crying out – 'Help me!'"

"At first, I thought it was someone larking about, but when I heard it again in reception at 2.30 in the morning, I called the police and a constable came to check it out. "However, we found nothing," Julian adds. DON JOHN

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THE imminent arrival of the

National Eisteddfod in Llandow, has been welcomed by local businesses and community councils in the area – and they are confident that the many visitors will see the Vale looking its best!

In fact, it is only just

over a week since the Vale held its 'Best Kept Village' competition (won by Ystradowen), and that means local hamlets are pristine.

Llantwit Major and Cowbridge, the two nearest towns to the Eisteddfod site, have been making plans to give visitors a warm welcome.

As Llantwit is the point of arrival for anyone travelling to the Eisteddfod by rail, and

by PHILIP IRWIN

as Cowbridge can expect bus passengers from Cardiff and Bridgend, both towns will have shuttle buses buzzing back and forth, taking people to the Maes.

It also means that Eisteddfod visitors who fancy a break, or a change of scenery, can pop into one or both towns to have a look around.

As a result, in

Cowbridge the chamber of trade has organised a rota of 'meetings and greeters' from local comprehensive schools – charged with letting visitors know what they can see and do in the town.

Natalie Isaac, from Cowbridge Chamber of Trade, said: "The 'meetings and greeters' will be young people from local schools – including some Welsh speakers – who will be there as part of their Welsh Baccalaureate studies.

"They will be able to direct visitors to attractions such as the Physic Garden, and they will be able to advise on where to eat, and let people know about those 'nooks and crannies' in the town which they might otherwise not notice."

The chamber of trade has also made a large quantity of bunting available to retailers, and the town should be proudly displaying the Eisteddfod colours by the time the

jamboree starts.

In Llantwit Major, the Eisteddfod is due to be welcomed with a marathon bell-ringing effort from St Illtud's Church, where a 'full peal of bells' – lasting three hours – is to be rung at 10am on Saturday, August 4.

The town's chamber of trade has also invested in Eisteddfod bunting, and has also

bought Welsh flags for flagpoles around the town.

Janet Moisan of the Llantwit Major Chamber of Trade told The GEM: "There should be even more bunting up by the time the Eisteddfod starts, as the Vale Council has said that it will be putting its own up, too!"

(CONTINUED
 ON PAGE 21)

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ONLY MEN ALOUD. (SEE PAGE 4)

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CEREMONIES THAT CELEBRATE CENTURIES OF WELSH CULTURE

THE Gorsedd ceremonies are some of the most memorable moments at any National Eisteddfod.

The Pavilion lights are dimmed and an expectant hush descends upon the capacity audience as they await the fanfare of horns.

Lights sweep across a sea of faces until one, and only one, person rises. On stage, the Archdruid stands in his golden regalia while behind him, the green, blue and white robed rows of Gorsedd members make for a striking backcloth.

For the writers themselves, the drama will have started months before, as they rush to get their entries in on time, using pseudonyms, instead of their real names.

The winner's identity will be kept a very close secret known to only a few. The rest of the ceremony is just thrilling – it is one of the great

spectacles of Welsh culture. The Gorsedd of the Bards is a society of poets, writers, musicians, artists and individuals who have made a notable contribution to the nation, its language and culture.

It is the Gorsedd who are responsible for the pageantry of the National Eisteddfod of Wales and it organises and presents the colourful and dramatic ceremonies which are held during the festival.

The Gorsedd, as you may have read recently in *The GEM*, was the creative invention of Iolo Morganwg, one of Wales' most famous and eccentric scholars, who felt that it should be made known that the Welsh were the direct descendants of Celtic culture and heritage.

Iolo Morganwg (or Edward Williams to give him his real name) was born at Pen-onn, near Llancarfan, and was raised in the village of Flemingston in the Vale of Glamorgan.

The Gorsedd of Bards

Story of the Gorsedd by SIONED EDWARDS

first came together in 1792, not in Wales as you might expect, but on Primrose Hill in London.

It made its first appearance at the Eisteddfod in Carmarthen in 1819, and from the time that the National was born in 1860/1861 its close association with the Festival has remained. The head of the Gorsedd of Bards is the Archdruid, who is elected for a term of three years, and is responsible for conducting the Gorsedd ceremonies during the Proclamation and Eisteddfod week.

The current Archdruid is T James Jones, or Jim Parc Nest, to give his bardic name.

The ceremony in which the winning poet is chaired for composing a collection of poems, an ode or other poem – all in strict metres on a specific subject, is one of the highlights of the Gorsedd of the Bards'

pageantry in every National Eisteddfod. It is held on the Friday afternoon of the Eisteddfod week.

It is a very old ceremony. The custom of competing for a chair in the King's court was already well-established in Hywel Dda's time in the tenth century and when the Lord Rhys held his Eisteddfod.

In Cardigan in 1176, the prize for the chief poet and chief musician was a chair each.

Having re-established the eisteddfodic movement in Bala in 1789, winning the Chair became the ambition of every poet, although there was no Gorsedd ceremony associated with it yet.

It was at the first provincial Eisteddfod in Dyfed/Dinefwr in Carmarthen in 1819 that Iolo succeeded in linking the rites of the Gorsedd of the Bards with the ceremony of Chairing



Vale of Glamorgan Eisteddfod
proclamation ceremony, June 2011.

the winning Bard.

In 1867, it was decided to assign the Chair for an ode in strict metre and to award a Crown for the best *prydeist* in free metre.

The Chairing ceremony at 1917 Birkenhead Eisteddfod was both memorable and harrowing.

Hedd Wyn was the bardic name of Ellis Humphrey Evans, a *Trawsfynydd* shepherd and gifted poet.

Ellis had joined the thousands of soldiers serving on the Western Front during World War I and drew upon his wartime experiences to write the poem *Yr Arwr* (The Hero), which describes the realities of war for both the soldiers and their families back home.

Back in Birkenhead, as the judges called out the name of the victorious bard, there was silence in the auditorium. Hedd Wyn had been killed six weeks earlier on July 31, 1917, during the battle for Pilckem Ridge, Ypres.

The Crowning ceremony which is held on the Monday of the Eisteddfod week is equally impressive.

For the first time during the Eisteddfod week, the Flower Dance will be performed, a colourful part of the Gorsedd ceremonies.

Local girls are chosen to perform the dance, which is based on a pattern of flower gathering from the fields.

Girls aged 9–11 from all over the Vale of Glamorgan were invited to an open audition last year to select the Flower Dancers; 34 were successful and performed the dance for the first time at the Proclamation Ceremony in Barry held in June 2011.

The dance portrays the gathering of meadow flowers and the girls dress in green tunics adorned with wild flowers. However, it is a comparatively recent

junior school teachers from the area.

One of the most prominent roles played during these ceremonies will be that by ex-Scarlets and Wales rugby star turned coach, Robin McBryde, as the Grand Sword Bearer.

He will carry the Great Gorsedd sword during the Gorsedd processions and, during the ceremonies themselves, holding it aloft to the Archdruid's call for peace. Carrying a sword was one of the rituals in Iolo Morganwg's first Gorsedd held in Primrose Hill.

Iolo, a pacifist, wanted to emphasise that the Bards met in peace and when a naked sword was placed on the Logan Stone (the main stone in the middle of the Gorsedd Circle where the Archdruid stands) they proceeded to sheath it as a symbol of peace

in Gorsedd.

In 1888, Phillip Yorke of Erddig Hall, presented a ceremonial sword to the Gorsedd, which was used until the turn of the century. Then, in 1899, Professor Hubert Herkomer designed a Grand Sword for the Gorsedd.

This is the Grand Sword still in use today.

The Gorsedd Ceremonies at the Vale of Glamorgan Eisteddfod will be held on Monday, August 6 (Crowning ceremony), Wednesday August 8 (Literary medal) and Friday, August 10 (Chairing ceremony).

Tickets for the ceremonies, which include field admission for that day, are now on sale and available to buy from the Eisteddfod website: www.eisteddfod.org.uk or by phoning the ticket hotline on 0845 4090 800.

Croeso i'r Brifwyl

A R ran Pwyllgor Gwaith Eisteddfod Genedlaethol Bro Morgannwg, mae'n bleser gennyf eich croesawu i'r Brifwyl eleni.

Bu trigolion y Fro wrthi'n ddiwyd am bron i ddwy flynedd yn paratoi, ac o'r diwedd, mae'r Maes ar ei draed a thros yr wythnos nesaf bydd llygaid Cymru gyfan arnom wrth i ni groesawu 150,000 – 160,000 o ymwelwyr i'r ardal.

Mawr yw ein diolch i bawb a fu mor gefnogol wrth i ni baratoi ar gyfer yr Eisteddfod. Mae'r ymateb yma yn ardal y Fro wedi bod yn ardderchog, ac rwy'n sicr y bydd pawb sy'n ymweld ag Eisteddfod Bro Morgannwg yn cael modd i fyw, a chroeso cynnes gan yr ardal, ar y Maes, yn ein trefi a'n pentrefi deniadol neu wrth ymweld ag un o'n hatyniadau lleol.

Rydym yn edrych ymlaen i groesawu ffyddloniaid yr Eisteddfod, sydd wedi bod yn paratoi i ddod atom ers amser, ond bydd y croeso yr un mor frwd ar gyfer unrhyw un sy'n dod atom am y tro cyntaf, a rydym yn annog trigolion y Fro yn arbennig i ddod draw i'r Maes i weld beth sydd ar gael.

Eleni, mae mwya o weithgareddau teuluol nag erioed o'r blaen, ac rwy'n mawr oethio y bydd digonedd i gadw'r teulu cyfan yn ddiwyd am oriau lawer.

Dyma'r tro cyntaf i'r



Dr Dylan Jones, chair of the Vale of Glamorgan Eisteddfod Executive Committee.

Eisteddfod ymweld ag ardal Bro Morgannwg ers 1968. Gadawodd yr Eisteddfod honno ei hól ar genedlaeth gyfan, a'n gobaiath yw y bydd y Gymraeg yn Mro Morgannwg yn ffynnu ymhellach yn sgîl ei hymwelid y tro hwn, ac y bydd trigolion lleol yn cael modd i fyw yn Mhrifwyl ein gwlad.

Diolch am eich cefnogaeth a mwynhewch yr wyl.

Welcome to the Eisteddfod ON behalf of the Vale of Glamorgan National Eisteddfod Executive, it gives me great pleasure to welcome you to this year's festival.

Local residents across the region have worked tirelessly for the past two years fundraising and raising awareness, and at last, the Maes is in place. Over the next week, the eyes of Wales

will be upon us, as we welcome between 150,000 and 160,000 visitors to the region.

We are grateful for all the support we are prepared for the Eisteddfod, and I am sure that everyone visiting this year's festival will enjoy a real Vale of Glamorgan welcome, whether it's on the Maes itself, in one of our attractive towns or villages, or when visiting one of the many local attractions.

We look forward to welcoming the Eisteddfod stalwarts who attend the festival annually, but the welcome will be just as warm for everyone coming to see us for the first time; and we encourage all of you to come to the Maes to see what's on offer.

There's more family activities than ever before at this year's event, and I very much hope that you'll have a day to remember.

This is the Eisteddfod's first visit to the Vale since 1968, and the festival left a lasting impact on a generation of local residents 44 years ago.

Let's work together to ensure the same thing happens again, and that we see the language and the culture of Wales go from strength to strength across the Vale in years to come.

Thank you for your support and enjoy the Eisteddfod.

DYLAN JONES
Cadeirydd y Pwyllgor Gwaith/Executive Committee Chair

David Melding

Regional AM for South Wales Central



“As a Welsh learner who lives in Penarth, it gives me particular pleasure to welcome the Eisteddfod to the Vale of Glamorgan”

**Residents of South Wales Central can contact my office for help and advice:
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Dyma un o ddigwyddiadau mwyaf cofiadwy unrhyw Eisteddfod. Mae golau'r Pafiliwn yn cael ei bylu ac mae ton o dawelwch yn disgyn dros y gynulleidfa wrth iddynt aros am alwad y Cynr Gwlad.

Ysgubir golau ar draws y pafiliwn cyn cyrraedd un man lle sefir y bardd buddugol ar ei dthraed. Saif yr Archdderwydd ar y llwyfan yn ei regalia aur gyda'r Orsedd tu cefn iddo yn barod i gyfarch y bardd ar y llwyfan.

I'r beirdd ei hunain dyma benllanw misoedd o aros ers postio'r gwaith erbyn y dyddiad cau gan ddefnyddio ffug enw yn hytrach na'i enwau bob dydd. Cedwir enw'r bardd buddugol yn gudd, gyda dim ond ychydig yn gwybod y gyfrinach. Mae'r seremoni yn un gwefreiddiol – un o uchafswyntiau celfyddyd Cymraeg.

Testun y Goron eleni yw 'Ynys' gyda Cen Williams, Cyril Jones a Penri Roberts yn beirniadu. Noddir y Goron gan Gyngor Bro Morgannwg ac efallai bod rhai ohonoch wedi darllen yn ddiweddar fod y gemydd lleol Anne Morgan o Benarth wedi ei dewis i greu y Goron.

Onid beth am sere-

moniau Coroni'r ddwy Eisteddfod arall sydd wedi ymweld â'r Fro?

1920: Noddwyd y Goron gan Mr TH Morley o Sully a rhoddwyd gwerth o £30 arni. Arddangoswyd y goron cyn yr Eisteddfod yn siop ffenest John Jones & Co, 114 Holton Road y Bari.

Dyfarwyddwyd y goron i löwr ifanc, James Evans, yn wreiddiol o Feulah, Castell Newydd Emlyn ond ar y pryd yn byw yn Ynysyhir, Rhondda. Dyma'r tro cyntaf i James Evans ennill y goron yn y Genedlaethol er iddo ennill sawl tro mewn Eisteddfodau lleol.

Wedi dilyn cwrs gradd yn Mhrifysgol Cymru fe'i hyfforddwyd ar gyfer y weinidogaeth ond yn ôl y South Wales News bu rhaid iddo "relinquish the pulpit for the pit due to a speech impediment".

Yn ôl yr adroddiad roedd yr olygfa yn y pafiliwn yn un ysbrydoledig gyda thorf o rhwng 10,000 - 12,000 yn bresennol gyda'r Archdderwydd Dyfed wrth y llyw.

Yr Athro WJ Gruffydd oedd yn trad-dodi'r feirniadaeth a darganfuwyd yn fuan nad oedd y dorf helaeth yn gallu ei glywed ac felly bu'n rhaid ffeindio 'megaphone' ar gyfer y feirniadaeth.

Roedd yn feirniadaeth hallt fodd bynnag, gyda'r beirniad yn nodi taw dim ond tri o'r un deg saith a ymgeisiodd oedd yn werth unrhyw ystyriaeth.

Yn ôl y Western Mail pan roddwyd y Goron ar ben y bardd roedd yn rhy fach a phan gododd ar ei draed fe gwympodd y goron i'r llawr!



LEFT:
L Haydn Lewis, winner of the Crown at the 1968 Eisteddfod in Barry.

Cafwyd cyntaf arall yn ystod yr Eisteddfod hefyd gan i'r gerdd fuddugol gael ei chyhoeddi am y tro cyntaf yn union ar ôl y seremoni.

1968: Noddwyd Coron Eisteddfod y Bari 1968 gan Mr a Mrs Dan Evans y Bari ac roedd yn nodweddiadol am y ffaith mai plastig oedd y prif ddefnydd. Penderfynwyd y byddai'n symbolig i ddefnyddio'r plastig yn y cynllun gan mai cynhyrchu plastig oedd un o brif ddiwydiannau'r dref.

Creuwyd y goron gan Keith Redfern oedd ar y pryd yn un o'r prif gynllunwyr oedd yn gweithio gyda'r defnydd. Defnyddwyd plastig ac arian yn y cynllun gyda melfed porffor yn gorf-fen y gwaith i greu coron a ddisgrifiwyd ar y pryd yn y Faner fel: "Portread celfydd o goron mewn defnydd cyfoes".

Derbyniwyd 22 o gerddi ar y testun 'Meini' gyda phrydddest gweinidog o'r Rhondda, Parch Haydn Lewis oedd yn enedigol o Geredigion, yn fuddugol. Ysbydolwyd y gerdd gan farwolaeth ei unig ferch ddeng mlynedd yn gynt ac roedd y gerdd yn ddilymiant o'r gerdd a enillodd Coron Eisteddfod Dyffryn Maelor iddo yn 1961.

Daeth y dyfarniad fodd bynnag yn dilyn anghytundeb llwyr rhwng y beirniad, a'r unig ffordd i ddatrys y broblem oedd i ddod â beirniad annibynnol i mewn. Roedd y tri beirniad; Dr Thomas Parry, Parch.

Euros Bowen a Waldo Williams yn gytân ar y tri bardd gorau ymhlith y 22 ond roedd pob un yn ffafrio cerdd wahanol. Am y tro

cyntaf yn eu hanes bu'n rhaid i Gyngor yr Eisteddfod apwyntio beirniad annibynnol a gofynnwyd i Alun Llywelyn Williams i benderfynu rhwng y tri ac fe ddewisodd cerdd Haydn Lewis.

Vale of Glamorgan Eisteddfod Crown

ONE of the main prizes awarded at any Eisteddfod is the Crown – awarded for the best Pryddest (long poem in free metre) during a special ceremony, which is held on the Monday of the Eisteddfod week – the winning poet being crowned by the Archdruid in a spectacular ceremony.

The subject for this year's Crown is 'Ynys' (Island) and it will be adjudicated by Cen Williams, Cyril Jones and Penri Roberts. The Crown is sponsored by the Vale of Glamorgan Council and you may have read recently that local jeweller, Anne Morgan from Penarth, was chosen to design and create the Crown.

But what of the Crowning ceremonies of the two other Eisteddfodau that have visited the Vale? 1920: The Crown was sponsored by Mr TH Morley JP of Sully, valued at £30 and was displayed in Barry in the shop window of John Jones & Co Drapers at 114 Holton Road.

The Crown was awarded to a young col-

charge of proceedings. One of the adjudicators, Professor WJ Gruffydd, who soon found that his voice would not carry to the large crowd present, had to resort to using a megaphone.

He delivered a scathing critique of those who had entered the Crown competition, noting that only three of the 17 were worthy of consideration.

According to the Western Mail, when the Crown was placed on the head of the winning bard it was found to be too small, and a great deal of amusement was caused when the poet rose from his knees, the Crown slipped from his head on to the stage.

For the first time, the winning poet's work was published immediately after the ceremony.

1968: The 1968 Barry Eisteddfod Crown was sponsored by Mr & Mrs Dan

Evans of Barry. It was noteworthy, as the main material used in the Crown was plastic.

It was decided that as the production of plastic was one of the main industries associated with Barry, it would be symbolic to use the material in the design.

The Crown was designed and created by Keith Redfern, who was one of the leading designers working with the material at the time.

Both plastic and silver were used and the Crown was finished with purple velvet to create what was described at the time as an: "Artistic crown using contemporary materials".

Some 22 poems were submitted for the competition, the subject of which was Meini (Stones) and the Crown was won by Rhondda Minister, the Rev Haydn Lewis, who was originally from Ceredigion. The poem

was inspired by the death 10 years previously of his only daughter, and was a continuation of the poem which won Rev Lewis the Crown at the 1961 Maelor Valley Eisteddfod.

The award, however, came only after a very unusual deadlock between the adjudicators – Dr Thomas Parry, Rev Euros Bowen and Waldo Williams.

Each of the three wanted to award the Crown to a different poet, and the argument could only be resolved by inviting an outsider to decide.

The Eisteddfod Council, for the first time in its history, then appointed Alun Llywelyn Williams to choose between the three poems and he chose the poem written by Durtur y Maen, which was the pseudonym of the Rev Lewis.

Crown awaits...



THIS year's Eisteddfod Crown has been donated by the Vale of Glamorgan Council and the financial prize presented by Islwyn and Ann Jones, Wenvoe. The Crown was designed and created by Anne Morgan of Penarth and was inspired by the landscape of the Vale of Glamorgan, with the rocks and cliffs of the area represented in the simple but bold design. It epitomises the designer's love for the region.



Eisteddfod Genedlaethol
Bro Morgannwg
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Mae'n dod...!
It's coming...!

The GEM
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EISTEDDFOD GENEDLAETHOL BRO MORÇANNWÇ VALE OF GLAMORGAN NATIONAL EISTEDDFOD



Now Only Men Aloud inspire youngsters from the Vale

“When everyone is singing together, it’ll be something Eisteddfod has never seen before”

FRESH from their recent success with Only Boys Aloud on Britain’s Got Talent, the members of Only Men Aloud are back at work mentoring and inspiring young children across the Vale of Glamorgan, as they prepare for the National Eisteddfod’s visit to the area at the beginning of August.

Only Vale Kids Aloud, the latest in the family of choirs, will perform for the first time at the opening concert, sponsored by Principality, at this year’s festival. Three members of the mentoring team took a break from rehearsals to tell us how the preparations are going and about their Eisteddfod experiences over the past few years.

“We’re really looking forward to this year’s Eisteddfod,” says Craig Yates. “I think when everyone’s singing together, it’ll be something the Eisteddfod has never seen before – if we can fit everyone onto the stage! The kids are really looking forward to the concert and sharing

the stage with Only Men Aloud – and especially with Only Boys Aloud!”

“Things are going well,” adds Dan Phillips. “The response has been fantastic. First week rehearsals were all really positive and the kids have all started well.”

So it bodes well for Only Vale Kids Aloud, and with the support and encouragement of Only Men Aloud members, it’s obvious that the children are involved in a project which will inspire and stay with them for years to come, just as the preparations for the opening concert at the Blaenau Gwent and Heads of the Valleys Eisteddfod inspired another group of youngsters two years ago.

Only Boys Aloud were created for the opening concert at that year’s Eisteddfod, and over the past two years, the 160-strong boys choir from across the south Wales Valleys has gone from strength-to-strength. Craig has special memories from that opening concert, “It was an amazing night. They reaction they had that night will live with me forever. We had started

Only Boys Aloud less than three months earlier, and to be on stage with them, seeing the delight in the audience’s reaction, and the massive self-belief in the boys, was something very special.”

“Definitely,” agrees David Mahoney. “It was an amazing reaction from the crowd, and an exciting and inspirational 160 teenage boys. We were all very proud of them.”

And although Only Boys Aloud soon became household names across Wales, with a TV series following their progress, and opportunities for them to support Only Men Aloud in concert, it took a certain ITV-1 series to bring them to the attention of the whole of the UK and beyond!

“I was able to be in Britain’s Got Talent for each round and the boys were amazing,” says Dan.

“It was great to be part of it with them and see how they grew as a group throughout the competition, and how well behaved they all were.”

“It was great,” agrees David. “It was quite a journey. Impressing the judges and the UK as a whole to become



ONLY MEN ALOUD – inspiring the Kids.

Britain’s biggest boy-band!”

“It was hard work,” admits Craig. “But what the boys achieved was something very special indeed. And by sticking to their Welsh roots, they touched so many people around the world through what they did. Amazing.”

As they prepared to return to mentoring the 300-strong Only Vale Kids Aloud choir, Craig tells us how he thinks the young members will benefit from their experience, which will stay with them forever – and they’ll make some great friendships along the way – “It’ll broaden their horizons and help them to grow in ability and self-confidence”.

...And with that, Craig, Dan and David rejoin the schoolchildren busily preparing for the opening concert on the Pavilion stage at the old airfield in Llandow on Friday, August 3 at 8pm.

MIRI’R MAES – WOULDN’T TRADE IT FOR THE WORLD!

THE National Eisteddfod is home to over 300 trade stands and stalls – and to a totally new and amazing shopping experience.

Wales’ foremost festival is a shopper’s Mecca – you’ll find whatever you want, whatever you need – and a few treats you never realised you should have – by wandering through the colourful stalls dotted around the Eisteddfod Maes. It’s a veritable cultural emporium.

You’ll find all kinds of jewellery – most inspired by and made in Wales, paintings by up and coming artists, as well as some well known names.

There’s a huge T-shirt culture at the Eisteddfod, with many companies developing and creating new designs just to sell during the week; and all the best new

Welsh books and books about Wales are released in time for the stands at the Eisteddfod.

And with the Eisteddfod held from August 4-11, you’ll have plenty of time to visit the stalls before deciding on your must have purchase!

But there’s so much more on the Maes than the hundreds of trade stands... Use the Eisteddfod to find out more about Wales and what’s going on across the country.

Wales’ largest and most important organisations will all have stands at the Eisteddfod, with plenty of information about what they do – and how they do it.

So if you’ve wanted to know more about music, art, culture, tourism, business, politics – you name it – come down to the Eisteddfod Maes and have a look round...

The Pink Pavilion is the focal point for all the competing during

the week, so whether you’re into singing, brass bands, presentations or the splendour of the Gorsedd ceremonies, come to the Pavilion to watch some of Wales’ brightest talents competing for the accolade of winning at the National Eisteddfod.

Scattered around the Pavilion are a host of satellite pavilions: A theatre, dance pavilion, literature pavilion, Visual Arts Exhibition, Science and Technology pavilion, Maes D – Learners Pavilion and the ever-popular performance stage, featuring local talent alongside some of the biggest names in the Welsh music scene.

Coupled with this, more relaxing activities such as face painting, storytelling, painting, quizzes, live music – and much more in stands and stalls across the Maes, you’ll just have to come back to see everything you missed on your first visit!

Councillor Eric Hacker, Mayor of the Vale of Glamorgan, extends a warm welcome to all visitors to the Vale of Glamorgan and wishes the Eisteddfod a successful week.



Maer’s Cyngorydd Eric Hacker, Maer Bro Morgannwg, yn estyn croeso cynnes i bawb sy’n ymweld â Bro Morgannwg ac yn dymuno wythnos lwyddiannus i’r Eisteddfod.

JANE HUTT AM

Labour Assembly Member for the Vale of Glamorgan



Dymuniadau gorau i Eisteddfod Genedlaethol Bro Morgannwg

Best wishes to the Vale of Glamorgan National Eisteddfod
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EISTEDDFOD GENEDLAETHOL BRO MORÇANNWÇ VALE OF GLAMORGAN NATIONAL EISTEDDFOD



'So proud to have National Eisteddfod in our backyard'

AS a local resident, born and bred here in the Vale, it is a matter of great personal pride that the National Eisteddfod is coming to the Vale of Glamorgan this summer.

I can recall the first Eisteddfod that I attended back in the 1970s in Pentwyn, Cardiff, and it has remained one of the highlights of my calendar ever since. So the opportunity to attend the show in my own backyard will be an extremely exciting moment for me.

For a week, the Vale of Glamorgan will be the cultural capital of Wales, attracting as many as 150,000 visitors to the area and putting on display all that is special about the area – from the award-winning parks, pubs and restaurants, to the expansive coastline and beautiful beaches.

The whole region will be

proudly on show!

The National Eisteddfod is in many ways the focal point of Welsh life each summer, and it remains as relevant, vital even, today as it was at the time of its revival in the 19th century; with the power to stimulate discussion and to tackle difficult issues, whilst serving as a celebration of Welsh culture.

With plenty of Welsh music, art and other original performances on show at the old Llandow airfield near Cowbridge, there is plenty for the whole family to enjoy throughout the week.

It is also important to point out that you don't need to speak Welsh to enjoy the experience – there will be free translation services on offer and there is always a warm welcome for all comers!

I would like to pay tribute to the foundations put in place by the previous Vale Council in

ensuring that the Eisteddfod could be hosted here, and, of course, to the incredible fundraising work done by the local community.

The preparations have been four years in the making and it is vital that local people and businesses benefit as much as possible from this wonderful opportunity.

Independent research has shown that the local economy can benefit by as much as £6-8 million by playing host to the National Eisteddfod.

The new Vale Council will be hosting the pavilion, welcoming visitors to the show, and I would like to join them, and local residents, in offering a warm welcome to visitors from across Wales.

I know that this will be a truly special, successful and memorable event.

ANDREW RT DAVIES
AM for South Wales Central

The Vale man who created the Gorsedd ON THE TRAIL OF IOLO MORGANNWG

AS we look forward to an action-packed festival at the Vale of Glamorgan National Eisteddfod next week, S4C viewers can get to know the area and its people better in two special programmes produced by the team behind the Channel's arts series, Pethe.

In the documentary *Y Gwir yn erbyn y Byd?: Jim ar drywydd Iolo*, the current Archdruid of Wales, Jim Parc Nest, sets out on a mission to discover the truth about one of Welsh culture's most colourful characters, Iolo Morganwg, who was born in the area hosting this year's National Eisteddfod.

Iolo was born in 1747 in the village of Pannon in Llanfarc.

He was a stonemason by trade but is better known for his work as an antiquarian and poet and for being a romantic and fantasist who made up imaginative stories and created fake poets. It was Iolo who created the Gorsedd y Beirdd (Gorsedd of Bards) and ceremonies we still see today at the National Eisteddfod.

In the programme Jim asks why Iolo created the Gorsedd, "a magnificent lie... a legend which has come true."

On his journey he questions Welsh literary expert Professor Meic Stephens about Iolo's background. He discusses Iolo's adventures in London with journalist and broadcaster Huw Edwards as they travel on the London Eye, and Jim also visits Primrose Hill in the city where Iolo held the first ever Gorsedd of the Bards of Britain in 1792.

Back in Wales, Jim meets poet Karen Owen on the summit of Moel Famau to chat about Iolo's connections with the Vale of Clwyd, and his obvious prejudice against North Walian poets. He regarded them as barbarians, totally different to those he described as the sophisticated poets of Glamorgan!

Jim ends his journey on Bryn Owain, above this year's Eisteddfod field – the Maes – in the company of Professor Geraint Jenkins, who is regarded as one of our most eminent experts on Iolo Morganwg.

It was on this hill that the first ever meeting of the Gorsedd of Bards was held in Wales.

In another special edition of arts series *Pethe* on Wednesday night, we'll explore around the area hosting the 2012 Eisteddfod and meet some of its inhabitants.

Nia Roberts visits Islwyn Jones, who composed the poem of welcome – *cywydd croeso* – for the Vale of Glamorgan National Eisteddfod; and meets two talented brothers, Iolo and Donal Whelan, at their home in St Hilary.

Iolo is a highly-regarded percussionist

who gives drumming lessons at the Vale Drum Studio. Donal is a music mastering engineer, and both brothers are members of the band Jamie Smith's Mabon.

The programme will also take a look at the Adain Avion project, a mobile art space created from the fuselage of a DC-9 aeroplane as part of the London Festival 2012.

Adain Avion has been travelling around Wales during the summer, working with local people along the way, to create performances, art works, workshops

and events at each location on the journey, before landing on the Eisteddfod Maes at Llandow, which is particularly suitable as it used to be an airfield.

Each performance and event has been filmed and stored in the aeroplane's 'black box', and will be shown to the thousands of visitors who'll be coming to the Eisteddfod.

Pethe: Y Gwir yn erbyn y Byd?: Jim ar drywydd Iolo; Wednesday, August 1, 9.30pm, S4C.

Pethe: Thursday, August 2, 9.30pm, S4C, (English subtitles).

A very special Welsh phrase of the week!

THIS week's Welsh phrase of the week is most definitely one that catches the moment:

Croeso i Fro Morgannwg (Croi-so ee Vro Mor-ganoog) which means 'Welcome to the Vale of Glamorgan'.

Welsh language technology festival to be held on the Maes

WORKING with Hacio'r Iaith and the People's Collection, the Eisteddfod will host the Welsh Technology Festival, a week of sessions likely to attract those interested in technology and the Welsh language, as well as those who are novices in the area.

The sessions will be a useful mix of workshops, drop-in sessions and more structured dis-

cussions. Eisteddfodwyr will be encouraged to blog about their experiences, use technology to practise and improve their Welsh, as well as plenty of opportunities to get some advice and help and try out different technologies during the week.

Euryr Ogwen Williams, this year's Honorary President and Chair of the local Literature Committee has been a pivotal part of the discussions from the start, and has also

been an innovative figure in Welsh language technology for many years. He says, "With thousands of visitors every year, what better place can there be to discuss technology and the language than the Eisteddfod Maes?"

"The Maes itself is a communications hub, and this new 'festival within the festival' is a chance for us to develop this element and provide many more people with the confidence and the necessary skills to use

technology through the medium of Welsh.

"I am delighted with this partnership between the Eisteddfod and Hacio'r Iaith in particular, and I hope that many more people will be blogging and sharing their Eisteddfod experiences on the Maes itself and once they've gone home.

"As well as formal and informal sessions, there's a chance for people to call in to blog at the end of the day to voice their opinion on winners, or share their views on their day on the Maes. This new festival will be an asset to the Eisteddfod.

"The work undertaken by Hacio'r Iaith over the past few years is extremely important to the Welsh language and to new technology through the medium of Welsh."

"I am pleased that we have created this partnership to reflect the important role Hacio'r Iaith, the People's Collection and the Eisteddfod itself has in the promotion of technology and the Welsh language."

Hacio'r Iaith's activities are sponsored by the Department of Theatre, Film and Television Studies at Aberystwyth University.

They are held in Cefnfen, between Y Lle Celf and the Literary Pavilion. Cefnfen is sponsored by Imaginet of Cardiff, who have provided web services to the Eisteddfod for many years, and have been an integral part of the technical development of its online presence.

'EISTEDDFOD DREAM IS NOW A REALITY'

I AM delighted to welcome the Welsh National Eisteddfod to the Vale of Glamorgan once again; it has been a long time since it last visited the Vale – when it came to Barry in 1968.

The Eisteddfod has come a long way since then, and is now the largest event in Wales and the second largest outside broadcast of the BBC in the UK.

It was January 2008 when I welcomed the Chief Executive of the Eisteddfod, as we set out to find a venue in the Vale to stage the 2012 event.

My mind was firmly set on bringing the Eisteddfod to the heart of the rural Vale at Llandow, and thanks to all the land owners and much work by the organisers, my dream has come true, when the Eisteddfod opens at Llandow on August 4.

Many people think that the Eisteddfod is just an event for Welsh speakers – don't you believe it!

The event brings together the whole of Wales to celebrate the art

and culture of our nation.

There is something for everyone to enjoy at the Eisteddfod and I hope the residents throughout the Vale of Glamorgan, and south Wales, take the opportunity to join all those visitors from all over Wales to celebrate a wonderful week of events on our doorstep.


Over the past year, many fundraising events have been held to support the Eisteddfod coming to Llandow and my grateful thanks to everyone who has supported them.

We are now reaching the climax of all your efforts and I know the excitement is growing amongst all those who have contributed so much.

I wish everyone a very enjoyable week and I hope that bringing the Eisteddfod to Llandow will benefit all those businesses in the area and that our visitors will return in the future.

Let us welcome everyone and make their stay one to remember, *Croeso i Bro Morgannwg!*

COUN GWYN JOHN
Cabinet member for Leisure, Arts and Culture,
Vale of Glamorgan Council



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Mystery of the replica chair...

WHEN R Bryn Williams stood on his feet in a packed Pavilion on Thursday afternoon at the Barry

National Eisteddfod in 1968, little did he know that he would receive two chairs, as prizes for his success that year. He received the

Eisteddfod Chair during the ceremony, but he also received a small replica chair, and even today, the story behind this miniature version remains a mystery to the family.

His grandson, Gwydion Griffiths, says: "It would be very interesting to discover some of the replica chair's history. Why was it produced, and is my grandfather the only person to have received two chairs at the same Eisteddfod for the same award-winning work?"

"The story has fascinated me for years, and with the Eisteddfod held in the Vale for the first time since 1968 this year, we are keen to find out more about the history of the little replica chair.

"My daughter loves the chair. The Eisteddfod Chair is in my uncle's house in north Wales, and I think it is lovely that two branches of the family are able to celebrate my grandfather's success."

The replica chair was in the care of R Bryn Williams' daughter, Nan Griffiths, for many

years, and she still has the plaque presented to her father with the replica. She says: "It's obvious that the chair was a gift from the Forestry Commission, although I can't remember why he received such a gift."

"It is a perfect replica of the Eisteddfod Chair, and the model was created by Glyn Rees from Dinas Mawddwy, who, if I remember rightly, was well known for his oak furniture during this period. He also exhibited and sold his work at the Eisteddfod.

"We've spent the past few years trying to discover the history, so if anyone can help us, we'd be very grateful for information."

1968 was the second time R Bryn Williams had won the National Eisteddfod Chair. He won in 1964 for his poem, 'Patagonia', a region which became synonymous with his name over the years.

Although known as a poet, writer and dramatist, his most famous works were his historical volumes, *Cymry Patagonia* (1942) and *Y Wladfa* (1962) – two

books which did much to educate the people of Wales about Patagonia.

He was brought up in Patagonia after his parents emigrated when he was seven.

He remained there until the age of 21, when he returned to Wales to study at Bangor University and at the College of Divinity in Aberystwyth.

He was a minister with the Welsh Presbyterian Church for 20 years before joining the staff of the Celtic department at the National Library of Wales.

R Bryn Williams served as Archdruid from 1973-1976, a period which his grandson vaguely remembers, and says: "I remember seeing my grandfather on the Pavilion stage."

"I couldn't understand why he was dressed so grandly. And I remember starting to call out, 'Taid, Taid!' once."

"We were all very proud of him as Archdruid and as a double winner of the Eisteddfod Chair – as

well as the winner who received a miniature chair as well.

"We'd love to find out the story behind this Chair and hope someone will be able to help."

If anyone has any information about the replica chair received by R Bryn Williams at the Eisteddfod in Barry in 1968, please send an email to: gwyb@eisteddfod.org.uk.



ABOVE: Two-year-old Miri Gruffudd and her father Gwydion Gruffydd, with the miniature chair presented to her great grandfather, R Bryn Williams, following his success in the 1968 Eisteddfod.

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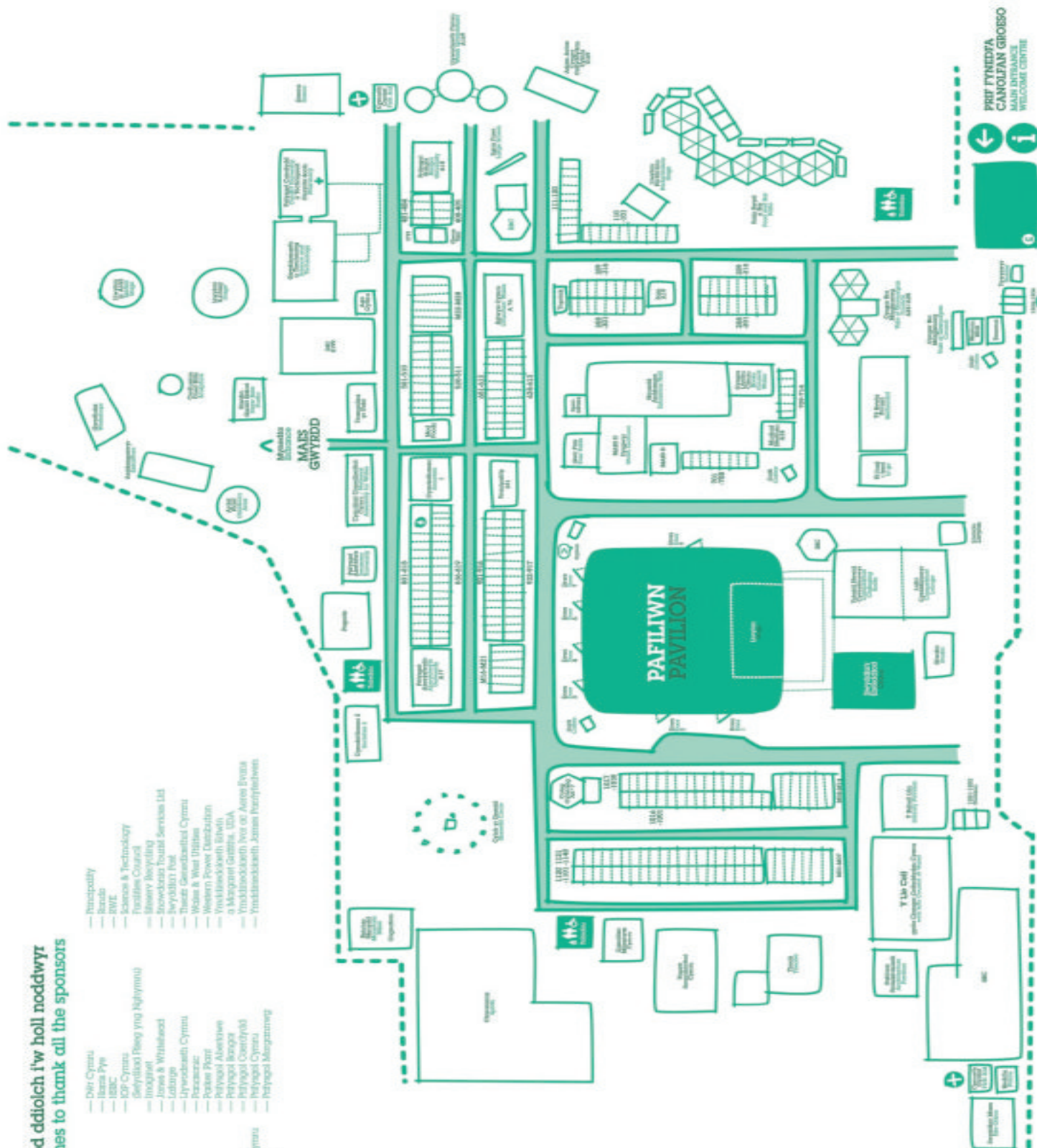
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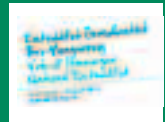
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EISTEDDFOD GENEDLAETHOL BRO MORÇANNWÇ VALE OF GLAMORGAN NATIONAL EISTEDDFOD



ARLWY'R NOS/ EVENING ACTIVITIES

MAE digonedd i'w wneud ar Faes yr Eisteddfod o fore gwyn tan nos, ac eleni, am y tro cyntaf, mae gweithgareddau'r hwyr wedi'u canoli ar y Maes.

Mae'r Eisteddfod yn trefnu nifer o gyngherddau bob blwyddyn a chynhelir y rhain yn y Pafiliwn ar y Maes. Gellir prynu tocynnau ar gyfer y cyngherddau naill ai drwy fynd i'r wefan:

www.eisteddfod.org.uk, ffônio'r linell docynnau, 0845 4090 800, neu drwy fynd i'r swyddfa docynnau yn y brif fynedfa'n ystod yr wythnos ei hun. Mae'r cyngherddau i gyd yn cynhyrwyd am 80'gloch.

Nos Wener Awst 3, mae Only Men Aloud, Only Boys Aloud, Only Vale Kids Aloud ac Academi Only Boys Aloud y Principality yn agor yr Eisteddfod gyda chyngherdd arbennig, sy'n sicrhau roi gweir i unrhyw un yn y Pafiliwn. Noddir y noson gan Gymdeithas Adeiladu'r Principality.

Nos Sadwrn, cawn gyfle i fwynhau Premier Prydeinig gwaith diweddaraf y cyfansoddwr Karl Jenkins, Beirdd Cymru, gyda'r cyfansoddwr ei hun yn arwain, a Rebecca Evans, Dennis O'Neill a Chôr yr Eisteddfod. Bydd y cyngerdd hefyd yn cynnwys nifer o ffefrynau clasirol, gan gynnwys Sadoe W'r Duw, Handel, Mae Hiraeth yn y Môr gan

Dilys Elwyn Edwards a Nessun Dorma (Turandot) gan Puccini, gydag Alwyn Humphreys yn arwain. Noddir y noson gan Swyddfa'r Post.

Nos Sul bydd cyfle i fwynhau canu cymleiddfaol gyda Chymnaid'r Eisteddfod, dan arweinyddiaeth Euros Rhys Evans, a chyda Robert Nicholls ar yr organ. Cefnogir y noson gan Eglwys Annibynnol Gymraeg Radnor Walk, Chelsea, Llundain.

Bydd nos Lun yn noddir a hanner wrth i Dafydd Iwan ddathlu hanner can mlynedd o ddiddanu cynulleidfaoedd ar hyd a lled Cymru. Dewch i fwynhau Degawdau Dafydd Iwan, pan fydd y dyn ei hun yn ymuno gyda rhai o'i hen gyfoedion a rhai o artistiaid ifanc disgleiriad Cymru ac nosen o ddathlu ac edrych yn ôl dros yr hanner canrif ddiwethaf, fel rhan o weithgareddau Maes C. Noddir y noson gan Ymddiriedolaeth Ivor ac Aeres Evans.

Os mai chwerrin a mwynhau sy'n mynd â'ch bryd, byddwch wrth eich boddau yn y Pafiliwn nos Fawrth, pan gynhelir y Gala Gomed Gymraeg fwyaf erioed. Dyma'r tro cyntaf i'r Eisteddfod fentro i fyd comedi, a chyda rhai o ddigrifwyr blaenaf Cymru, gan gynnwys Tudur Owen, Ifan Tregaron, Gary Slaymaker a Dewi Pws, yn ymddangos ar lwyfan y Pafiliwn, dyma noson sy'n mynd i aros yn y cof am amser maith. Noddir y noson gan Gronfa Gari, ac mae'n

rhan o weithgareddau Maes C.

Bydd cyngherddau'r wythnos yn cloi nos lau pan gawn orig yng nghwmni'r amryddawn Caryl Parry Jones - a gallwn gadarnhau y bydd rhai o'i chymeriadau enwocaf hefyd yn ymddangos yn y cyngerdd. Mae Caryl yn enwog fel darlledwraig, performwraig ac fel cerddor, felly dewch i fwynhau noson arbennig iawn yn y Pafiliwn nos lau, fel rhan o weithgareddau Maes C.

Y Lwylfan Perfformio fydd lleoliad rhai o weithgareddau Maes B a Maes C eleni. Cynhelir Maes B yno ddechrau'r wythnos, cyn symud i lwyfan agored ar y Maes Ieuencid o nos Fercher ymlaen, felly y Maes yw'r lle i ddod ar gyfer Brwydr y Bandiau nos Lun - er y bydd cyfle i'r band buddugol berfformio ar lwyfan Maes B yn y Maes Ieuencid ar y nos Sadwrn olaf fel rhan o'r wob.

Adeiladau amrywiol y Maes yw cartref nifer o weithgareddau Maes C eleni. Am nifer o flynyddoedd mae'r Maes wedi dod yn fwyfwy poblogaidd gyda'r nos gyda nifer fawr yn dewis aros yn y patio bwyd ymhell ar ôl i'r cystadlu offren. Felly eleni, mae'r Eisteddfod wedi trefnu nifer o weithgareddau ar hyd a lled y Maes i fynd â'ch bryd.

Ddiwedd brynhawn Sul, dewch â'r plantos i'r Babell Lân i fwynhau Oli Odl, Dona Direidi a rhai o ffrindiau Cyw, S4C, cyn mynd draw at y Lwylfan Perfformio lle fydd Elin Fflur yn barod i ddiddanu'r teulu cyfan.

Ymysg y gweithgareddau Maes C eraill ar y Maes bydd y Stomp enwog nos Wener, a gynhelir yn y Babell Lân eleni, a noson gyda Steve Eaves a Llewelyn yn y Theatr, nos lau am 90'gloch. Mae rhestr llawn o'r gweithgareddau i gyd ar dudalennau eraill yr app hwn, felly treuliwch ychydig o

amser yn pori drwy'r amserlenni, gan gynnwys nio'ch wythnos, ac yna dewch draw i Landw i fwynhau Eisteddfod Genedlaethol Bro Morgannwg. Chewch chi mo'ch siomi!

THERE'S plenty to do on the Eisteddfod Maes from morning till night, and this time, most of the evening activities are located on the Maes itself.

The Eisteddfod organises a number of concerts every year, and these are held in the Pavilion on the Maes.

Tickets can be bought online, by ringing the ticketline: 0845 4090 800, or by going to the ticket office in the main entrance during the week itself. All the concerts start at 8pm.

On Friday August 3, Only Men Aloud, Only Boys Aloud and The Principality Only Boys Aloud Academy open proceedings, with a special evening, which is sure to be a great success. The evening is sponsored by the Principality Building Society.

On Saturday evening, enjoy the UK premiere of Karl Jenkins' latest work, *Bards of Wales*, with the composer himself conducting Rebecca Evans, Dennis O'Neill and the Eisteddfod Choir.

The concert also includes a number of classical favourites, including 'Zadok the Priest' (Handel), 'Mae Hiraeth yn y Môr' (Dilys Elwyn Edwards) and 'Nessun Dorma' (Turandot) by Puccini, with Alwyn Humphreys conducting. The evening is sponsored by The Post Office.

On Sunday, come to the Pavilion to enjoy an evening of congregational singing, with the Eisteddfod Cymania, Euros Rhys Evans con-

ducting and Robert Nicholls on the organ. The evening is supported by the Radnor Walk Welsh Congregational Church, Chelsea, London.

Monday evening will be a night to remember as Dafydd Iwan celebrates 50 years entertaining audiences across Wales and beyond. Come and enjoy Dafydd Iwan's Decades, when the man himself will be joined by a wide range of performers from throughout Dafydd's long career.

This evening is part of Maes C activities on the Maes, and is sponsored by the Ivor and Aeres Evans Trust.

If you enjoy comedy, the Pavilion is the place to be on Tuesday evening as the Eisteddfod hosts its first ever Comedy Gala - which is also the largest ever Welsh language comedy event.

Comedians including Tudur Owen, Ifan Tregaron, Gary Slaymaker and Dewi Pws will appear on the Pavilion stage, for an evening which is sure to entertain everyone.

The evening is sponsored by Cronfa Gary, and is part of Maes C's activities on the Maes. This evening is suitable for those over 14 years.

The Eisteddfod concert programme draws to a close on Thursday when we enjoy an evening with Caryl Parry Jones - and we can confirm that some of her most famous characters will also appear in this one-off show, created especially for this year's Eisteddfod.

Caryl is well-known as a broadcaster, performer and musician, and she'll be combining all three skills for a memorable evening, as part of the Maes C activities.

The Performance Stage plays host to some of the Maes B and Maes C activities this year. Maes C is held on the Maes at the start of the week before moving to an open stage in the Youth Village from the Wednesday evening onwards.

Come to the Maes to enjoy the Battle of the Bands competition on Monday evening, and the winning band will have a chance to perform on the open stage at the Youth Village on the Saturday evening as part of their prize.

Maes C is held at a number of the Eisteddfod's own pavilions on the Maes this

year. For many years, the Maes has become increasingly popular in the evening, long after the competing has drawn to a close.

So this year, the Eisteddfod has organised a number of activities on the Maes to appeal to Eisteddfodwyr of all ages.

At the end of Sunday afternoon, bring your little ones to Y Babell Lân to enjoy Oli Odl, Dona Direidi and some of Cyw's friends, before going over to the Performance Stage to enjoy Elin Fflur, ready to entertain the whole family.

Amongst the other Maes C activities on the Maes are the famous Stomp on Friday evening, held in Y Babell Lân, and an evening with Steve Eaves and Llewelyn in the Theatre on Thursday at 9pm.

A full list of activities can be found on the website, so why not spend some time browsing through the list and planning your week at the Vale of Glamorgan National Eisteddfod? You won't be disappointed.

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Dydd Sul	10yb-11.30yh	12-4.30yh & 5.30-8yh

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"I would like to extend a warm welcome to everyone visiting the National Eisteddfod in the Vale of Glamorgan this week. I know this will be an unforgettable event."

"Hoffim esynni groeso cynnes i bob sy'n ymweld ag Eisteddfod Genedlaethol Cymru yn Môr Morgannwg wythnos yma. Iwy'n gwybod y bydd hwn yn ddigwyddiad byrghofiadwy."

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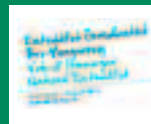
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LOCAL FUNDRAISERS WITHIN REACH OF EISTEDDFOD TARGET



Eisteddfod organiser Hywel Wyn Edwards has heaped praise on the Vale Eisteddfod Committee for all their hard work fundraising for the festival over the past two years. (See below, right)

EISTEDDFOD WORKING WITH CERN ON PARTICLE EXHIBITION

THE main science and technology exhibition at this year's National Eisteddfod is entitled: 'Discovering Particles' – an apt theme for the festival, given the recent exciting announcements in Geneva.

The Eisteddfod's exhibition has been put together in partnership with CERN and Swansea University's physics department.

The aim of the exhibition is to explain what scientists are trying to discover in Switzerland, and the role Welsh scientists have had in the process

over the past few years. One of the main attractions will be a huge model of the particle accelerator in the centre of the Science Pavilion – but there's no need to worry as it's not a real accelerator, and the Maes is unlikely to be sucked into a huge black hole!

The Eisteddfod's science officer, Robyn Wheldon-Williams, said: "Many of us are aware of the ground-breaking experiments in Geneva, but few completely understand what scientists are trying to discover and the question they're trying to answer."

"It's an exciting time in Geneva at the moment, with this week's announcement

that they've almost certainly discovered the missing particle, the Higgs Boson."

The Higgs Boson, sometimes referred to as the "God particle", lends mass to matter and holds the universe together. The discovery fills gaps in the theory that explains how particles, forces and interactions combine to shape the Universe.

The Eisteddfod has been working closely with CERN over the past few months, and is grateful to Dr Rhodri Jones for his work. He will present the main science lecture at this year's festival – 'The LHC – the world's most powerful accelerator'.

It discusses the scientific and technical challenges faced in building the collider, and presents the latest results and what it means for us.

Elfed Roberts, Eisteddfod chief executive, added: "The Science and

Technology Pavilion is one of the most popular places on the Maes, and the fact that organisations like CERN are supporting us, shows our ability to attract international standard exhibitions, working with partners around the world."

There will be a number of interactive activities in the Pavilion for people of all ages, from modelling collisions to seeing a real cosmic ray.

The National Eisteddfod is very grateful to the STFC (Science and Technology Facilities Council) for sponsoring the project.

A wide range of other activities are taking place in the Science and Technology Pavilion during the week, including events organised by Panasonic, promoting the fuel cell in the home, outlining the co-operation between Japan and Wales, and

the company's latest inventions.

This part of the exhibition also includes the history of Welshman, Sir William Grove, the father of the fuel cell, and his experiments.

Wales & West Utilities will host an exhibition to highlight their campaign on the dangers of carbon dioxide gas, and leaflets promoting the campaign will be distributed to everyone staying on the caravan site and in the youth village, outlining the dangers of this deadly gas.

Lafarge, owners of the cement works in Aberthaw, who celebrate their 100th anniversary this year, will run events about the cement industry and will host a 3D cinema during the week.

A full list of Science and Technology activities at this year's Eisteddfod is available on the website: www.eisteddfod.org.uk.

A big thanks!

AN important part of the visit of any Eisteddfod is the work of the local appeal committees – raising money and awareness of the Eisteddfod.

It's wonderful to be able to confirm that they are within touching distance of reaching the challenging target of £300,000 the Vale was given. With activities still to be held, the committee is confident that this figure will be met.

Eisteddfod organiser, Hywel Wyn Edwards, said: "It's difficult to believe that the Eisteddfod is almost upon us again this year. Two years of work in

the Vale of Glamorgan is about to reach its climax.

"The welcome we've received from local people and from the team of volunteers has been wonderful, and the work they've done raising awareness and funds is excellent.

"With days to go, I think it's timely that we pay tribute to them all for their work, their commitment, and most of all for their enthusiasm during a difficult economic period.

"We are extremely grateful for everything you've achieved over the past two years.

"Dioch yn fawr!"

Artistic view

VALE of Glamorgan Artists (www.voga.org.uk) will be displaying their artistic interpretations of Welsh poet Menna Elfyn's 'The Burning Multitude' at the Eisteddfod, from August 4-11 (stand number N14 in the Exhibition Hall, Neuadd Arddangos).

The works can then be seen at the Travellers' Gallery, run by Mind in the Vale, from Monday August 14-Friday September 6, mornings only, 7.30am-12.30pm.

More of VoGA's work may also be seen in the Barry Arts Festival, Windsor Road Church, Barry, July 27-August 5, 10am-4pm (free admission).



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O'NEILL TO PERFORM BRITISH PREMIER OF WORK

One of the greatest activities the Eisteddfod brings to any area is the formation of the Eisteddfod Choir, with an opportunity to perform in front of over 2,000 people in the Eisteddfod

pavilion with a full concert orchestra and world class soloists. This year's Eisteddfod Choir concert promises to be a night to remember as during the second half of the concert they will perform the British Premiere of Karl Jenkins' new work: The Bards of Wales with

soloists Dennis O'Neill and Rebecca Evans and Karl Jenkins himself conducting the work. His latest work 'The Bards of Wales' was premiered in Hungary in June 2011. The piece forges an unexpected link between Hungary and Wales: The Hungarian poet János Arany (1817-82) was asked to write a poem in praise of the Austrian Emperor Franz Joseph but, as the Austrian overlords had just suppressed the 1848 Hungarian Revolution, the poet did the opposite. To satisfy the state censor, the poem was written in terms of Welsh history rather than Hungarian, telling how Edward I of England executed Welsh bards for failing to sing his praises at a banquet in Montgomery Castle in 1277.

The British premier of the work at the Eisteddfod will feature the Welsh language version of the work by poet Twm Morys.

Performing on the night will be the renowned tenor, Dennis O'Neill and we caught up with him as he prepares for his appearance at the Eisteddfod. "I am looking forward to appearing at the Eisteddfod" He said. "Karl Jenkins and I were schoolboys together at Gwernon Grammar School and played in the orchestra together. As you would expect from Karl, the Bards of Wales in an original and exciting score. It's interesting too that the Hungarian text is apparently known to every schoolchild in that country, making an amazing link with Wales".

Dennis also has fond memories at performing

at the last Eisteddfod to be held in the Vale, when the Eisteddfod visited Barry in 1968. He competed, and was successful in the 18 - 25 age group tenor competition. "Winning this competition ended my competitive stage and began my ambition to become a professional singer"

Although the highlight of the concert will be the British premier of the Bards of Wales the first half will feature popular classics carefully chosen by the Choir and soloists. Dennis explained "For the first half of the concert I have decided to stick to the pieces that I have sung for many years and represent the most popular aspect of my work - 'Arafu Don' is definitely the most popular Welsh song for tenor and 'Nessun Dorma' is the

most popular aria for an Italianate tenor. I have chosen the repertoire that has taken me around the world".

It's been a busy year for the singer with most of the year taken with establishing the Wales International Academy of Voice with the University of Wales of which he is Director and immediately after the Eisteddfod he will leave for masterclasses and recitals in Australia and New Zealand.

Before that however he will once again take to the stage in the 2,000 seater Eisteddfod Pavilion. Tickets are currently for sale and priced at £19 - £28 from the Eisteddfod ticket Office : 0845 40 90 400 or www.eisteddfod.org.uk.

ONLY VALE KIDS ALoud PREPARE FOR EISTEDDFOD

THREE hundred young voices from the Vale of Glamorgan will unite for the National Eisteddfod Opening Concert in Llandow this August. In a special documentary on S4C, we'll see how the ambitious project was brought together under the watchful eye of master conductor Tim Rhys-Evans.

Wyn Davies will join Tim and members of Only Men Aloud and Only Boys Aloud as they prepare the young singers in schools across the county. S4C viewers will also be given front-row seats as the young

choir take their bow on the National Eisteddfod stage in their first public performance, alongside Tim's other choirs, Only Men Aloud and Only Boys Aloud.

Only Kids Aloud o'r Fro is to be broadcast on Thursday, 2 August with the Eisteddfod's Opening Concert live the following evening (Friday, 3 August).

"We wanted to create a choir of local school-children for this year's opening ceremony that would give them a chance to experience the thrill of performing on a world-class stage in their local area," explains Tim Rhys-Evans. "There's no grander stage in Wales than that of the National Eisteddfod. Earlier this year, we issued a rallying call to youngsters in

the Vale of Glamorgan and the response has been phenomenal with over 300 children now taking part in this project."

A large number of the performers come from English-speaking homes. This project aims to raise the awareness of the Welsh language as well as traditional choral singing.

"The National Eisteddfod has a strong tradition of nurturing and developing performers. Both Only Men Aloud and Only Boys Aloud have performed on the Pavilion stage and we're all excited to be returning when the Eisteddfod arrives in the Vale of Glamorgan."

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Maes D - centre for learning Welsh

If you're learning Welsh, or thinking about learning, there will be a warm welcome for you at Maes D, the learners' pavilion.

A variety of activities suitable for learners will be held throughout the week, including zumba in Welsh, daily workshops run by Cardiff and Vale College, musical performances, learn the national anthem with Courtenay Hamilton and much more.

Activities for children and families will also be held at Maes D. Why not come and see one of Kariad the Clown's performances, take part in a circus workshop or enjoy a storytelling session with Peppa Pinc organised by Rily book publishers. The singer Wynne Evans will officially open Maes D at 10.30am on Saturday, August 4.

Cardiff and Vale of Glamorgan Welsh for Adults Centre will hold daily Welsh language taster sessions at Maes D for beginners.

The Eisteddfod is the perfect time to start learning Welsh as there are so many opportunities to practice! You can also pick up information at Maes D about learning Welsh in your local area.

Of course, there are people learning Welsh all over the world and we will celebrate this on Tuesday, August

7. During the day there will be presentations on the online provision for learners and how social groups outside of Wales can be set up and maintained. You can also enjoy a Japanese tea ceremony, tango dancing and take part in a Skype conversation with learners from across the world.

If you haven't been to the Eisteddfod before, why not come to the 'Your first visit to the Eisteddfod? Where to go, what to see?' session on the first Saturday or Monday, August 6.

Translation equipment will be provided at both these sessions. To find out the times and dates of all the activities at Maes D, visit: www.eisteddfod.org.uk, and look under Eisteddfod 2012, 'Maes activities'.

The highlight of the week for learners will be to find out who has been crowned Welsh Learner of the Year 2012 on Wednesday August 8.

Tickets for the evening, held at the Bear Hotel, Cowbridge, will be for sale at: www.eisteddfod.org.uk until August 1. Come and hear more about the four finalists, enjoy light entertainment and a delicious three course meal.

We look forward to welcoming you at Maes D!

Creating the chair



ABOVE: This year's Eisteddfod chair was crafted by Andrew Lane, with the inscription by Rupert King.

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EISTEDDFOD GENEDLAETHOL BRO MORÇANNWÇ VALE OF GLAMORGAN NATIONAL EISTEDDFOD



Dafydd Iwan's decades

THIS year's Eisteddfod is a milestone for one of Wales' most famous performers, as the evergreen Dafydd Iwan celebrates half a century of entertaining audiences across the whole of Wales –

and beyond.

It's certain that Eisteddfodwyr of all ages will want to share this occasion with one of Wales' best-loved entertainers, and enjoy a special show as part of this year's Maes C activities, Dafydd Iwan's Decades – the highlight of this year's celebrations.

We caught up with Dafydd himself to look back over the decades and look forward to a special evening in the Pavilion in less than a month.

He said: "The evening is an opportunity to look back at 50 years of performing, with old friends and young artists, and I'm sure there'll be a few smiles and a few tears along the way during the show, but the aim is to create an evening to remember.

"Song wise, there may be a new twist on some old favourites, and I'm delighted that I'll be joined by Ar Log, Heather Jones a'i Ffrindiau, Hefin Elis, Miriam and Greta Isaac, Adran Heol-y-March, the faithful old band, and Edward himself, on stage. It'll be Gwyn Llewelyn's job to try and keep us all under control!"

Half a century has passed since Dafydd picked up his guitar and started performing at a concert in Fishguard High School in the summer of 1962, and since then, his catchy songs have grasped the imagination of the people of Wales.

He says: "Every song has some kind of story or message, or what's the point? In the 1960s,



ABOVE: Dafydd Iwan's Decades will look back over the 50 years he has been performing at the National Eisteddfod.

lots of Wales' young people had very clear aspirations, and it's natural that songs from the period reflect this. We weren't preaching, or even protesting really, we were merely expressing our feelings and putting our hopes of living our lives fully through Welsh and living freely as Welsh people, into words."

And the Eisteddfod was an integral part of this urge to live their lives through Welsh from the beginning of Dafydd's career, and he has many happy memories of attending the festival, both as an entertainer and as a performer – he has performed at every Eisteddfod since 1967!

"I remember cycling all the way from Llanuwchllyn to Plaid Cymru's summer school in Llangefni in 1957 on my brand new racing bike, and then on to the Eisteddfod," he continued. "Two years later, when the Eisteddfod came to Caernarfon in 1959, my brother Arthur and I shared a tent on

land at Gwernafalau Farm in Llandwrog. Little did I realise at the time that Sain would open its first studio on that very farm 15 years later.

"I have very fond memories of the three Eisteddfods in Bala – '67, '97 and 2009, a one-man show in Theatr y Gegin in Cricieth in 1975, the fierce protests in Flint in 1969, the mud and the rain in Fishguard in '86, and the 'Peintio'r Byd yn Wyrdd' (Painting the world green) show in Llanybyddie, during the Ammanford Eisteddfod in 1970.

This year he's appearing in Maes D at 4.30pm on Thursday, and he's then part of the Maes C activities on the Maes on Saturday at 6.30pm on the Performance Stage.

Dafydd Iwan's Decades is held on August 6 at the Eisteddfod Pavilion. Tickets are available online: www.eisteddfod.org.uk, or by calling 0845 4090 800.

'Best of Barry' welcome for the Eisteddfod

A SELL-OUT crowd of more than 300 enjoyed a memorable night in Barry Memorial Hall last Friday, when 'The Best of Barry' took to the stage as the last fundraiser in Barry to raise money for the National Eisteddfod, which starts in Llandow in a week's time.

The evening was presented by Connie Fisher, who has just finished a six-month tour of the musical *Wonderful Town*.

Connie is a National Eisteddfod winner herself, and she was more than happy to take the evening off from filming duties on *Casualty* to host the event.

Johnny Tudor, who played Marco in Gavin & Stacey, co-hosted and dazzled on stage as he entertained the audience in his own unique way by singing, dancing and storytelling.

Both Connie and Johnny have learnt Welsh themselves and they were keen to encourage others who do not speak Welsh, to attend the Eisteddfod.

As Connie said: "Don't think that the Eisteddfod is boring and for people who wear Welsh costumes and eat leeks!"

Also present was Melanie Walters, or 'Gwen' from Gavin and Stacey. Melanie helped out with the auction and raffle, which were supported by local businesses and wellwishers, and the organisers are very grateful for their gen-



CONNIE FISHER

erosity.

The Vale of Glamorgan Brass Band were in fine form as they kicked off the proceedings with 'Men of Harlech', and it was fitting that Barry Choral Society – which was established for the National Eisteddfod of 1968 – was part of the guest line-up, as well.

Local home-grown talent were Barry-born and bred singers – Aled Sion Williams, Beth Zienna Williams, Ifan Gwilym Jones and Lisa Davies. They all gave some impressive performances and are certainly names to look out for in the future.

The Y Dance Crews from the YMCA displayed some fabulous

street dancing and Superstars in the Making displayed some great musical theatre.

As it was the last day of term, it was surprising that the youngsters in these line-ups had any energy left!

Euros Rhys was the accompanist for the evening and he has had a busy 12 months co-directing the Eisteddfod Choir. But you will hear a lot about him during the Eisteddfod week as he is the guest conductor for the Gymanfa Ganu on Sunday, August 5.

The organisers are hoping that the people of Barry will go over to Llandow in August and see for themselves that the Eisteddfod is truly an event which welcomes everybody.

And if you are worried about not speaking the language – be sure to ask for the translation service.

The Eisteddfod is a celebration of Welsh culture and heritage and we are sure that everybody in the town will give the people of Wales a warm 'Best of Barry' welcome in August.

ALUN HUGHES

The Stockton family gear up for busy week!



ABOVE: Macsen, Lleucu and Caleb Stockton from Penarth.

ONE local family in particular is gearing up for a busy Eisteddfod week!

The Stockton family from Penarth has been eagerly awaiting the start, since daughter Lleucu (7), a pupil at Ysgol Pen y Garth, Penarth was selected to be one of the flower dancers who will perform at the Crowning and Chairing ceremonies on Monday and Friday of Eisteddfod week.

Lleucu will also be performing with the school choir during the Daniel Owen ceremony on Tuesday and will also be taking part in a poetry reading with local poet, Caryl Parry Jones, in the literature pavilion on Sunday.

Lleucu said: "After over a year of rehearsing for the flower dance, I'm really excited at the prospect of performing it in the main pavilion.

"My parents, brothers, grandparents and cousins, will all be in the audience to support me – and I can't wait!"

"I'm also looking forward to exploring the 'Maes' and top of my

list will be the 'Flash Bang show' and circus workshops in the Science Pavilion, drama workshops in the Theatre Cafe, craft activities around the Maes and, if I get time, I'm looking forward to seeing Elin Fflur perform."

Brother Macsen (7), meanwhile will take to the Literature pavilion stage on Saturday, to perform with other local schoolchildren in a special concert organised by Menter y Fro.

Among Macsen's festival highlights will be the numerous activities for children in the Science Pavilion, and the chance to get to meet some of his favourite television characters.

Mother Marek has been a pivotal member of the Penarth Appeal Committee who in the space of 18 months have raised thousands of pounds in the town.

Successful events have included a vintage garden party, showing of the film *Twin Town*, concert with Max Boyce, Frock swap.

No doubt the family will be looking forward to a well-deserved rest at the end of the week!

Ysgol Iolo Morganwg



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Maes B will create a 'great atmosphere'

YR ODS sy'n **arwain lein-yp nos Sadwrn** **Maes B** eleni, gan **gloi pedair noson o gigs a fydd yn wahanol iawn i'r arfer yn Eisteddfod Bro Morgannwg ym mis Awst.**

Yn ôl y Trefnydd, Guto Brychan: "Eleni, bydd Maes B yn cael ei gynnal ar lwyfan agored yn y maes ieuencid, gan ychwanegu at yr ymdeimlad o wyl i greu awyrgylch arbennig."

"Mae'r ymateb i'r syniad hwn wedi bod yn arbennig o bositif, a llawer o sôn ar wefnau fel Twitter dros y misoedd diwethaf, ers cyhoeddi'r syniad gwreiddiol."

"Rydian ni wedi bod yn awyddus i arbrofi gyda llwyfan agored ers

peth amser, ac mae lleoliad yr Eisteddfod eleni'n gwedd'u berffaiith i hyn, felly, o nos Fercher ymlaen, bydd Maes B yn digwydd ar y maes ieuencid, sy'n agos iawn at Faes yr Eisteddfod ei hun. Bydd dim angen i wersyllwyr orfod meddwl am ddal bws neu gyrraedd yn ôl i'r maes ieuencid ar ddiwedd y nos."

Bydd Maes B ar y maes ieuencid yn cychwyn nos Fercher gyda Meic Stevens, Elin Fflur, Al Lewis Band, Tom ap Dan a Greta Isaac, ac yna nos lau, bydd Cowbois Rhos Botwnnog, Y Niwl, Sen Segur, Violas ac Eilir Pierce yn ymddangos.

Y Bandana, Masters in France, Swnami, Helyntion Jos y Ficar a Nebula, enillwyr Brwydr y Bandiau C2 Radio Cymru a Mentrau Iaith Cymru, sy'n

chwarae nos Wener, ac Yr Ods, Creision Hud, Yr Angen, Candelas ac enillwyr cystadleuaeth Brwydr y Bandiau Maes B fydd yn cloi'r wythnos ym Maes B.

"Rwy'n meddwl ein bod ni wedi llwyddo i sicrhau lein-yp ardderchog ar gyfer Maes B eleni, gydag amrywiaeth eang o grwpiau a genres, a fydd yn sicrhau apelio at gynulleidfa leol a chenedlaethol sy'n dod draw i Fro Morgannwg."

"Bydd gigs Maes B, gan gynnwys cystadleuaeth Brwydr y Bandiau, ddechrau'r wythnos yn cael eu cynnal ar y llwyfan perfformio ar Faes yr Eisteddfod ei hun."

"Mae hyn yn rhan o strategaeth yr Eisteddfod i ganoli nifer o weithgareddau, gan gynnwys Maes C ar y Maes ei hun eleni, ac mae'n ffordd arbennig o sicrhau bod cympas llawer mwy eang o bobl yn cael cyfle i fwynhau rhai o fandiau newydd Cymru ddechrau'r wythnos."

"O ran cystadleuaeth Brwydr y Bandiau, rwy'n meddwl bod cael y cyfle i chwarae ar y llwyfan perfformio yn ogystal ag ym Maes B ei hun yn gyfle arbennig i unrhyw fand."

Gellir prynu tocynnau arlein yn: www.eisteddfod.org.uk, neu drwy ffônio'r Llinell Docynnau - 0845 4090 800. Am ragor o wybodaeth am Maes B, ewch i www.maesb.com neu www.facebook.com/maesb. Gallwch ddilyn Maes B ar Twitter - www.twitter.com/maesb.

YR ODS lead the Saturday night line-up at this



Yr Ods lead the Saturday line-up.

year's Maes B, completing four evenings of gigs, which will be very different to previous years at the National Eisteddfod in the Vale of Glamorgan.

According to organiser, Guto Brychan:

"This year's Maes B will be held on an open stage in the youth village, adding to the festival vibe and creating a great atmosphere."

"The response to this

idea has been extremely positive, especially on social media such as Twitter, since the original idea was first announced late last year."

"We've wanted to experiment with an open stage for a while, and this year's location is perfect; so from Wednesday evening onwards, Maes B takes place in the youth village, close to the Eisteddfod Maes itself."

"This means that people won't have to worry about catching a

bus or getting back to the campsite at the end of the night."

Maes B at the youth village starts on Wednesday night with Meic Stevens, Elin Fflur, Al Lewis Band, Tom ap Dan and Greta Isaac, and on Thursday night, Cowbois Rhos Botwnnog, Y Niwl, Sen Segur, Violas and Eilir Pierce will perform.

Y Bandana, Masters in France, Swnami, Helyntion Jos y Ficar and Nebula, winners of the C2 Radio Cymru and Mentrau Iaith

Cymru Battle of the Bands, are the line-up on Friday, with Yr Ods, Creision Hud, Yr Angen, Candelas and winners of the Maes B Battle of the Bands competition performing on Saturday night at Maes B.

Guto Brychan added: "I think we've managed to put together a strong line-up this year, with a wide range of groups and genres coming together, to create a festival which is sure to appeal to a local and national audience, coming to the Vale of Glamorgan."

"Maes B gigs at the beginning of the week, including the Battle of the Bands competition, will be held on the performance stage on the Eisteddfod Maes itself."

"This is part of the Eisteddfod's strategy to centralise a number of

activities, including Maes C, on the Maes itself this year, and it's a great way to ensure that as many people as possible have the chance to enjoy some of Wales' newest bands early in the week."

"I think it's good for the Battle of the Bands competition, as the bands will be able to perform live on the performance stage as well as playing in Maes B - a fantastic opportunity for any band."

Tickets are available online at: www.eisteddfod.org.uk, or by ringing the ticket-line - 0845 4090 800. For more information on Maes B, go to: www.maesb.com or www.facebook.com/maesb. You can also follow Maes B on Twitter - www.twitter.com/maesb.



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ARRIVAL OF WELSH NATIONAL FESTIVAL IS A TIMELY ECONOMIC BOOST TO TRADERS IN THE VALE

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 20)

Janet continued: "We are all really looking forward to welcoming visitors, and we hope that they will enjoy spending time in the town, and come back soon!"

"Llantwit Major RFC is hosting the Welsh Language Society's camp site, and there will also be live music, featuring the best Welsh lan-

guage bands, every evening in the rugby club."

The Llantwit Major History Society is also doing its bit to welcome visitors to the town. Members will be on hand throughout the Eisteddfod period, offering information and advice about the history of the area.

They will be in the Heritage Centre, which is part of the town hall, from August 4 until August 11.

The potential economic benefits of around 160,000 visitors to the Vale have been appreciated by the Vale Council, too.

The council's website offers visitors advice on where to stay, and where to visit, and the council will have a strong presence on the Maes throughout the festival.

An Eisteddfod spokeswoman told The GEM: "A significant percentage of the economic benefit to the local area during the Eisteddfod goes to the tourism and hospitality sector, with people staying in hotels and guest houses, eating out, and enjoying local amenities during their visit to the area."

"Around 600 caravans and 100 tents will be placed on the official caravan site next to the Eisteddfod Maes itself, and many more people will be looking for spaces at other local caravan parks during the week."

"Thousands more will also be searching for hotels, bed and breakfasts, guest houses, private houses and so on, providing ample opportunities for the hospitality sector in the region, as many people will book their accommodation well in advance."

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EISTEDDFOD GENEDLAETHOL BRO MORGANNWG VALE OF GLAMORGAN NATIONAL EISTEDDFOD

Crash course in Welsh for local businesses

BUSINESSES in the Vale are invited to attend a free Welsh taster session during the next week, as part of preparations to welcome Eisteddfod visitors to the county.

The aim of the session is to help staff learn basic phrases to greet visitors in Welsh, and the first session is tonight (Thursday, July 26) 5.30pm-6.30pm at the Bear Hotel, in Cowbridge.

The second session will be on Tuesday, July 31 (4.30pm-5.30pm) at

the Llantwit Major Rugby Club.

For more details, email gwen-not@eisteddfod.org.uk or call 0845 4090 300.

An Eisteddfod spokeswoman added: "If you're attending the Eisteddfod and interested in learning Welsh, remember to drop in at Maes D, the learners' pavilion."

"Taster sessions for complete beginners will be held daily at Maes D, and everyone is welcome. Look under 'Maes activities' on the Eisteddfod's website for the time of each session."

Vale Council puts fun into the Eisteddfod

THE stage is set and final preparations are well under way for the National Eisteddfod 2012.

For this year's Eisteddfod, which will be held in Llandow from August 4-11, the Vale Council has organised a daily programme of fun activities for visitors of all ages.

Activities include a surf simulator challenge, willow weaving and puppet workshops, paintball target challenge, play activities, balloon modelling, face painting and Nordic walking.

Cookery tutorials, showing visitors how to make traditional Welsh treats such as Glamorgan sausages, laverbread and Welsh cakes, will also be held by BBC Wales presenter Sian Bassett Roberts.

Daily film and music workshops will be held by the Vale Youth Team on the multi-media VPod bus.

The Vale's sports and play development team will be overseeing activities in the sports arena, including taster sessions

in rugby, football, cricket, badminton, tri-golf, athletics, multisport games and dodgeball.

Many of these sessions will be delivered by experienced coaches from the team's 5x60, Disability Sport and Dragon Sport programmes.

There will also be coaches from a variety of organisations delivering coaching sessions daily throughout the week, with players from Cardiff Blues and Glamorgan Cricket will also host

training sessions.

The Vale's Play Aloud team will be inviting visitors to help them build a cardboard city.

A mobile forest school will also be on site, with activities - including building a log circle, scavenger hunts and treasure hunts.

As part of a revival of the Barry Summer School, artist Ivor Davies will give a presentation about the pioneering summer school during the 1960s at 3pm on Thursday, August 9.

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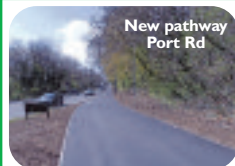
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Community fundraisers are vital part of the Eisteddfod

THROUGHOUT the area, fundraising groups have been organising events to raise money to help with the cost of bringing the Eisteddfod to the Vale.

Sian Elin Jones, of the Welsh St Donat's group, told The GEM that local businesses had offered great support.

She said: "That definitely helped us to reach our target. We started a year ago last March, with a rugby forum in the Bear Hotel, with Jonathan Davies and Simon Easterby."

That event was a great success and it meant that the fundraising drive was off to a flying start.

Earlier this year, the group organised a Sant Dwywnwen evening at Cowbridge restaurant Arboreal. Sant Dwywnwen is the Welsh equivalent to St Valentine, although his saint's day is celebrated on January 25.

The group finished off their events at the end of June, with an antiques quiz, once more in the Bear, with questions from Philip Havard of Havard and Havard.

Sian Elin Jones said: "This event was organised with the Cowbridge fundraising group."

Elsewhere, there has been a huge variety of events, all aimed at helping the Eisteddfod thrive.

Cast members of *Pobol y Cwm* staged a concert in 'All Saints' Church Hall, Penarth, while the Vale Resort staged the 'Llandow Open' golf day.

Eisteddfod supporters were busy in Penarth, putting on a concert with Cantemus in St Augustine's Church; while Hamptons restaurant staged 'What's New Pussycat?' – a Tom Jones evening, complete with a five-course meal.

On a completely different tack, cast members of the cult film *Twin Town* attended a screening in the Paget Rooms, and then took part in a Q & A session.

In Barry, a cabaret at the Memorial Hall was hosted by Connie Fisher, with guests Johnny Tudor and Melanie Walters (Stacey's mum in *Gavin and Stacey*).

There is, in fact, at least one fundraising event to go, because on August 3, Bridgend Male Choir (National Eisteddfod winners in 2004 and 2006) will perform at St. Illtud's Church, Llantwit Major, at 7.30 pm.

Tickets are available from Graham Morgan on 01446 790132 or 07948 485325.

Ros Lewis, of the Llantwit Major fundraisers, ran through just some of the events (more than 40) they had organised.

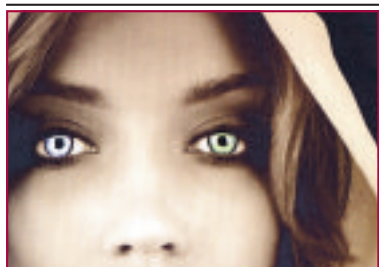
She said: "Graham Morgan, landlord of the Old White Hart, ran a 'Haggis and Hearts' dinner, and Quest Hair Salon staff organised a curry night at the Jaipur Indian Restaurant."

"We held a Race Night at the Kings Cup pub in St Athan, and the St Athan members of the group organised a St David's Day Dinner at the Blue Anchor."

"We organised a murder mystery evening, in conjunction with the Welsh learner officer, at Illtuds 216 restaurant, a 'Taste of Wales' dinner at the West House Hotel, Llantwit Major, and a ghost story evening at the Boverton Castle."

The aforementioned are by no means the only ones who have worked to help the Eisteddfod, and the sheer number who gave their time is a real testament to the affection that people have for this celebration of Welsh culture and tradition.

The Eisteddfod may have to deal with a certain rival attraction in London this year, but for so many proud Welsh men and women – it's simply no contest!



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LONG SERVING STAFF RETIRE AT SCHOOL

FOUR teachers with a combined service record of 126 years at Holton Primary School, retired at the end of the summer term.

They were: Mrs H O'Sullivan, Mrs S Thomas, Mrs C Evans and Mrs P Lloyd.

"They have given the school many years of loyal service and many, many children could not have asked to be placed in better caring hands than theirs," said head-teacher Mr A Gilbert.

"On behalf of everyone at the school now, and all those who have known them, I should like to thank them for their commitment to the



school and wish them a long and happy retirement," he added.

ABOVE:
The retiring colleagues with Mr Gilbert.

IN BRIEF: Plaid coffee

THE latest free coffee morning with Dinas Powys Plaid councillors will be held this Saturday, July 28 (11am-12noon) in the Lee Hall, Britway Road.

Contact Coun Chris Franks on 07725497423.

Joint worship

THE parish of Llansantffraid, Bettws and Aberkenfig will be holding a joint worship service in Llansantffraid Church on Sunday, July 29 at 10am; all welcome.

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL CYNGOR BRO MORGANNWG

Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act, 1990 Town and Country Planning (General Development Procedure) Order 1995

Development that may affect a Conservation Area /
Datblygu a allai effeithio ar Ardal Gadwraeth

Application No/ Rhif y cais:	2012/00693/FUL
Proposal/Cynnyg:	New three storey dwelling built over existing outdoor pool
Location/Lleoliad:	10, Park Road, Penarth
Listed Building/ Adeilad Rhestredig:	Penarth

Affecting setting of a Listed Building/
Cais (au) sy'n effeithio ar leoliad Adeilad Rhestredig

Application No/ Rhif y cais:	2012/00591/FUL
Proposal/Cynnyg:	Proposed re-building of hall formerly known as Frazier Hall at Boys Village for use as single residential dwelling
Location/Lleoliad:	Plot 1, Former Frazier Hall, Boys Village, West Aberthaw
Listed Building/ Adeilad Rhestredig:	Affecting The War Memorial, West Aberthaw, Grade II

Application No/ Rhif y cais:	2012/00592/FUL
Proposal/Cynnyg:	Proposed rebuilding of caretakers bungalow to form single dwelling
Location/Lleoliad:	Plot 5, former caretakers bungalow site, Boys Village, West Aberthaw
Listed Building/ Adeilad Rhestredig:	Affecting The War Memorial, West Aberthaw, Grade II

Application No/ Rhif y cais:	2012/00632/FUL
Proposal/Cynnyg:	Proposed conversion of canteen block building to form single dwelling
Location/Lleoliad:	Plot 2, Former T Shaped canteen block, Boys Village, West Aberthaw
Listed Building/ Adeilad Rhestredig:	Affecting The War Memorial, West Aberthaw, Grade II

Application No/ Rhif y cais:	2012/00633/FUL
Proposal/Cynnyg:	Proposed conversion of school chapel building to form single dwelling
Location/Lleoliad:	Plot 3, Former School Chapel, Boys Village, West Aberthaw
Listed Building/ Adeilad Rhestredig:	Affecting The War Memorial, West Aberthaw, Grade II

Application No/ Rhif y cais:	2012/00634/FUL
Proposal/Cynnyg:	Proposed conversion of accommodation block building to form single dwelling
Location/Lleoliad:	Plot 4, former accommodation block flat roof brick building, Boys Village, West Aberthaw
Listed Building/ Adeilad Rhestredig:	Affecting The War Memorial, West Aberthaw, Grade II

May affect a Public Right of Way /
Gall effeithio ar Hawi Tramwy Cyhoeddus

Application No/ Rhif y cais:	2012/00676/FUL
Proposal/Cynnyg:	Dormer bungalow
Location/Lleoliad:	Tyn Y Tranch Farm, Ystradowen, Cowbridge

Details may be inspected for 21 days at the address given below, or via www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk
Gall manylion eu harchwilio am 21 diwrnod yn y cyfeiriad a roddir isod, neu drwy www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk

Dated / Dyddiedig: 26 July, 2012
M. Goldsworthy, Operational Manager Development & Building Control,
Vale of Glamorgan Council, Dock Office, Barry. CF63 4RT

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NOLAN'S FINAL DARK KNIGHT MOVIE COMPLETES TRULY CLASSIC TRILOGY

HAVING taken on what seemed to be a poisoned chalice in the Batman franchise, Chris Nolan has not only resurrected it, but has also redefined the comic book genre on film (it's not for nothing that he is executive-producing next year's Superman film, *Man of Steel*).

Having smashed box-office records with the last Bat-outing, *The*

Dark Knight, Nolan's latest entry in the franchise is also likely to be his last.

In *The Dark Knight Rises*, we pick up the story eight years later, with Bruce Wayne (Christian Bale) having 'retired' Batman, as Gotham's police, led by Commissioner Gordon (Gary Oldman), have cleaned up the streets.

But when a terrorist named Bane (Tom Hardy) and a cat-thief called Selina Kyle (Anne Hathaway) show up in the city, Wayne

must 'rise' once again and defend his city against his most formidable foe yet...

How exactly does a director go about following up a film that grossed over \$1 billion dollars worldwide and was held up as perhaps the greatest comic-book movie of all time?

For a lesser director, the challenge may have proved too much. However, Chris Nolan must have felt confident in his ability not just to follow up *The Dark Knight*, but to wrap up

his take on the franchise.

It was confidence that was not misplaced, as *The Dark Knight Rises* is a grandiose and epic film that brings the *Dark Knight* trilogy to a satisfying conclusion, the film aiming higher than its predecessor and, by and large, hitting those targets.

The law of sequels is that they must be bigger, more dramatic, and have more spectacle than what came before, and given that *The Dark Knight* superseded these rules, quite what Nolan and company would do this time around would be closely watched.

However, there is no getting away from the raising of the dramatic stakes as characters are put through the wringer, in terms of the scope of the direction, which is sweeping, and the set-pieces, which push the bar even higher.

Nolan's direction has grown more accom-

plished since his first Batman outing, and here he indulges himself fully. Certainly the near-three-hour run-time doesn't come close to dragging; there is so much story to tell that the film moves along nicely.

But Nolan is as keen to concentrate on the drama as he is the action, resulting in a film that bridges the gap between the two elements, and more than delivering on both.

Writing along with his brother Jonathan, the pair delve deeper into the universe they've created, giving nearly all of the main characters their moment in the sun, while taking pains to ensure the story wraps up cleanly.

Come the conclusion, all the protagonists feel fully realised and well drawn out (even if some, such as Marion Cotillard's Miranda Tate feel slightly under done).

Christian Bale delivers an incredible performance as the man with two identities, capturing the pain and guilt that the years have brought upon him, wrestling with his desire to save the city he loves.

Bale's is the driving role through the film and the actor, as ever supported more than dependably by the similarly-impressive Michael Caine as Alfred, is more than up to the task.

Considering he spends the entire film behind a mask, Tom Hardy is impressive as Bane, the actor using his eyes and dominating physical presence to great effect, the physicality emphasising how big a threat he is to both Batman and Gotham.

Anne Hathaway blows away the preconceptions that she wasn't up to the role of Selina Kyle with a breathtaking turn that burns through the film.

Both Joseph Gordon Levitt and Gary Oldman are similarly as impressive, the pair incredible, with the whole cast delivering exquisite performances.

While sad that this is the finale of Nolan's Batman, his rescue of the character on the big screen, and subsequent revival, has resulted in nothing short of one of the finest cinematic trilogies of all time. *The Dark Knight Rises* is a worthy, and hugely satisfying, closing chapter.

VERDICT - Saying goodbye to Batman with an epic and emo-



by
GARETH JAMIESON

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tional outing, *The Dark Knight Rises* is top-class film making by Christopher Nolan.

With an outstanding cast, and beautiful balance between drama and action, it is a fitting finale to a truly outstanding trilogy - good luck to whoever has to follow this! Essential viewing. **SEE THIS IF YOU LIKED:** *The Dark Knight* (2008), *Inception* (2010)



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Brook Cottage, Llanfarnham - £485,000
Charming, detached character cottage set in beautiful position overlooking the brook which passes through the well regarded village of Llanfarnham. Well presented accommodation briefly comprises entrance vestibule, open plan living/dining room, kitchen/breakfast room, study, sitting room, rear hall/utility room and cloakroom. First floor: a landing area provides wonderful space, 3 double bedrooms one of which has an ensuite and a family bathroom. Landscaped gardens surround the property. Off road parking and a detached double garage.



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Chestnut Villa, Llantwit Major - £309,950
A characterful family home in a conservation area within the historic 'West End' of Llantwit Major and with a wonderful, sheltered west facing mature garden. Large lounge with woodburner, dining room and fitted kitchen. Also utility room and ground floor cloakroom. Two bedrooms and bathroom to first floor; also third, double bedroom to attic accessed from bathroom. West facing garden with patio and lawn with 'Discovery' apple tree and surrounded by flower and shrub borders. Stone-built, garden store.



SSTC
LLANTWIT MAJOR

Primrose View, Llanblethian - £575,000
A brand new detached property in the heart of the well regarded village of Llanblethian, a short walk from Cowbridge town centre. Bright and spacious accommodation finished to a high quality comprises of reception hall, living room, dining room, kitchen, utility room and downstairs shower room. 4 bedrooms 2 with en-suites, and a family bathroom. Integral garage. Enclosed gardens.



SOLD
WICK

8 The Limes, Cowbridge - £249,950
A brand new detached property in the heart of the well regarded village of Llanblethian, a short walk from Cowbridge town centre. Bright and spacious accommodation finished to a high quality comprises of reception hall, living room, dining room, kitchen, utility room and downstairs shower room. 4 bedrooms 2 with en-suites, and a family bathroom. Integral garage. Enclosed gardens.



Nash House, Nash, Cowbridge - £645,000
Nash House stands in almost one third of an acre of the landscaped gardens of Nash Manor. A beautiful, period property combining features of both historical and architectural interest. Well proportioned accommodation and outbuildings within a stone throw of the market town of Cowbridge.



Rose Cottage, Llandow - £299,950
A picturesque, 4 bedroom character cottage set in the heart of this well regarded village. The accommodation briefly comprises of entrance hall, living room, dining room, kitchen/breakfast room. To the first floor, 4 bedrooms and family shower room. Outside, a private, enclosed rear garden. Off street parking. Cowbridge school catchment. No onward chain.



2 Kingscombe Cottage, Llanblethian - £299,950
A period, semi detached cottage situated in a wonderful position, in the centre of Llanblethian. The accommodation briefly comprises of porch, living room, kitchen with pantry, rear hall, bathroom and three bedrooms. Outside store. Large plot with off road parking. Requires some modernisation.



Ty Amandla, Marcross - £240,000
Situated in the quiet village of Marcross, an architect-designed refurbishment of a delightful 19th century two-bedroom property. The accommodation briefly comprises: entrance hallway, w.c., kitchen/breakfast room, utility room and living room. Upstairs: two double bedrooms and family bathroom. Outside, there is a private lawned garden and driveway parking for two cars.



57 Eastgate, Cowbridge - £245,000
A two bedroom cottage situated in the heart of Cowbridge. Accommodation briefly comprises entrance hall, living room, dining room, kitchen/breakfast room, landing, two double bedrooms and a bathroom. Enclosed back garden.



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Record-breaking season for under-9 cricket team

IT has been a fantastic season for the Cowbridge cricket under-9s - and a record breaking one.

Never before has the club had the privilege of coaching nearly 40 children on a consistent basis throughout the season.

In fact, the popularity of the coaching sessions has meant that Wednesday evening Cowbridge mini-tournaments have been the 'must attend' social event of the week for mums and dads proudly watching their sons and daughters display their skills.

Skills is absolutely the right word. Many children who back in February (when indoor nets began) couldn't bowl, bat, catch or throw are now impressing the crowds with the full range of their developing abilities. Trust me when I advise that numerous Glamorgan and even England stars of the future are being developed here.

We have a number of bowlers who now regularly terrorise other clubs' aspiring batsmen, while several Cowbridge batsmen have inflicted bruises on watching adults who believe themselves to be out of harm's

way! And that's before we get to the catching. Goodness me they have all come a long way!

Many of this year's squad will still be under 9 next year which means that results in 2013 will be even better. Having said that, this year Cowbridge teams have beaten some top sides from other clubs. The future is extremely exciting.

It has been an enormous pleasure to coach such an enthusiastic, lively and sporting group of young children starting out in learning a game which will hopefully sustain them for years to come. I would also thank, in particular, Mike Reilly for his brilliant coaching support and the numerous mums and dads who have lent a hand when needed.

What a fabulous season! The photo shows a number of players who took part in a tournament at Cowbridge in early July - on a day when the sun shone! Record breaking season indeed!

JW



ABOVE: Some of Cowbridge's keen under-9 cricketers.

Local gymnasts bring medal collection back from USA!

EIGHT Barry YMCA gymnasts and three coaches recently arrived home tired but happy after winning 11 medals and having a fantastic experience when they competed at the San Dollar Invitational event at the World of Sport in Florida.

In the Prep Optional Senior and Level 7 events, medals were awarded to the top six gymnasts. Tia Ali gained an all-round medal placing of sixth, and added to this with a third on beam and fifth on bars.

Elice Stockford climbed onto the podium on two occasions, placing fifth on bars and floor. Chelsea Slack also claimed two

medals, placing fourth on bars and sixth on vault.

Ellie Peterson continued the medal run, placing second on beam and joint fifth on floor, with her teammate Elice. Seren Mirza Davies added to the medal tally, placing sixth on beam.

Elisha Watkins was the sole Barry representative in Prep Optional Junior event where the top three gymnasts were awarded medals. Elisha performed a number of new skills to place fourth overall.

In the higher Level 7 Junior B event, the top six gymnasts were awarded medals. Barry YMCA was represented by Alana Stokes and Nia Davies in this category who both successfully performed a number of new skills.

Alana claimed a sixth place medal on bars, and placed eighth overall. Nia placed seventh on floor and ninth overall.

A great experience was had by both gymnasts and coaches. A huge thanks is given to everybody who helped with the fundraising for this trip.

Special thanks go to Barry Town Council, Dinas Powys Town Council and Kellewau Builders.

Barry YMCA Gymnastics Club has organised a summer programme which includes taster sessions in a variety of disciplines.

To find out more about the summer programme or find out about more about the gymnastics opportunities available all year round at Barry YMCA, call 01446 724001.

Mixed results for Cowbridge bowlers

COWBRIDGE lady bowlers again fell foul of the weather, with their league match, at home to Barry Central, cancelled.

However, their Cowbridge Shield match, at home to Llantwit Major, was played and they had a good win by 50 shots to 37.

On captain Pat Holdsworth's rink of Lynda Wilson, Sylvia Hole and Judy Springett, they won

well, 19-9.

The rink of Dorothy Pritchard, Barbara Slade, Anne Jarvis and skip Shirley Wilkinson also had a good win by 20-13.

On Joy Woolford's rink of Diane Purnell, Karen Every-Clayton and Sue Flower, they lost 11-15.

On Thursday, the ladies played a friendly match at Penarth, in beautiful sunshine at last, losing the match 35-55, with only the rink of Shirley Wilkinson, Phyllis Price, Carol Davies and Jan Lewis doing well with a well-earned draw of 13-13.

The other two rinks both lost 11-21.

Members of the two losing rinks were Diane Purnell, Mary Dowdle, Pat Holdsworth and skip Joan Bradley, and on the other rink, Lynda Wilson, Diane Lloyd, Kay Edwards and skip Pat Davey.

The men played Barry Athletic at home in the Munro Cup and had a close game, winning on two rinks but also losing on two.

Steve Dickens' rink of Terry Dunsworth, Rob Lewis and Guy Morton won 26-15, and the rink of Ron Frayling, Gerry Lloyd,

Alan Wallace and skip Dennis Snelling also won well, 18-8.

However, on the rinks of Brian Kent and Byron Richards, both lost by one shot. Clive Pritchard, Len Taylor, Colin Wilkinson and Brian Kent lost 13-14, and Eric Sewell, Brian Williams, John Trott and Byron Richards went down 16-17, losing on the last end.

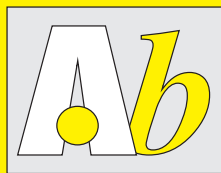
In the league match away at Senghenydd, the men had a heavy loss by 66 shots to 108. They did manage to pick up two points with a good win on skip Byron Richards' rink by 23-22.

Byron was helped in his win by Clive Pritchard, Ron Wooford and John Trott.

Other rink scores were: Terry Dunsworth, Norman Wilkinson, Guy Morton and skip Steve Dickens lost 12-28; Ron Frayling, Brian Williams, Colin Wilson and skip Mike Bradley lost 19-33; and captain Dennis Snelling's rink of Mansel Davey, Gerwyn Watkins and John Jones, lost 12-25.

The good thing about this match was that it was played in glorious sunshine.

NJW



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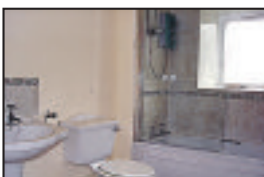
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Andrews House & Andrews Court - A Completed Purchase

Nicholas Hill receives his keys to his new home from Mark Brown of Anthony Brown Estate Agents Limited. Nicholas, a local of Llantwit Major has made a quality purchase of a new build town house. The central location has been finished to the highest of standards by local developers Kingfisher (Wales) Limited. The development has now been completed with 2 and 3 bedroom property available for immediate occupation. **Prices start at £144,500.**



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 3 bedroomed traditional semi, approx 200ft rear garden, extended to ground floor, original block flooring, dining room, lounge/sitting room, fitted kitchen, hobby area in attic, UPVC DG, GCH
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YEW TREE COURT, BARRY
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TRINITY STREET, BARRY
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£114,950



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£524,950



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 Traditional semi detached, garden suburb location, 2004 double extension to rear, 4 bedrooms (master ensuite), living room & dining room, kitchen/breakfast, wc cloakroom, garage, enclosed rear garden.
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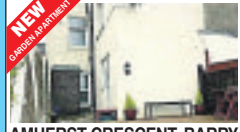
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MARINE DRIVE, BARRY
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DYFAN ROAD, BARRY
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£134,950



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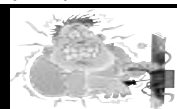
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on the birth of your daughter

Evie Louise

7lb on 24 July 2012.

All our love, Mum, Dad, Aaron, Kirsty & Ava

Family Notices

Mrs Pat Maynard

would like to thank all her friends for the kind messages of sympathy that she and her family have received after the tragic loss of Tom. They are much appreciated.

EDWARDS

Michael John

Passed away peacefully at home on July 20 after a long illness, beloved husband of Joyce and much loved father, grandpa, brother and friend.

Funeral service to be held at Holy Cross Church, Cowbridge on Monday, July 30 at 2.45pm, followed by cremation at Coychurch Crematorium Bridgend.

Family flowers only, but donations in lieu would be much appreciated for Marie Curie and Velindre Hospital - donations may be sent to Velindre Hospital, Velindre Road, Whitchurch, Cardiff; enquiries telephone 01446 775681.

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Birthdays

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CLEMENT

26 July 2012

Love from all your friends in "Llantwit Major".

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EVANS

John Dewi

(David)

Daphne, Paul, Chris, Sian and family wish to thank friends and neighbours for all their kindness, lovely flowers and cards following our sad loss. Very special thanks to the doctors and nurses at Princess of Wales Hospital, Bridgend for their wonderful care and compassion for David. Grateful thanks to Reverend David Juliff and W James & Sons, Fommon for their kindness and the beautiful service. Our thanks to you all.

NICHOLAS

Ivor Glyn

(4th April 1950 - 15th July 2012)

Peacefully on July 15, 2012 at Morriston Hospital, Swansea, aged 62 years, Ivor (master butcher of both Cardiff and Cowbridge), dearly beloved husband of Edwina, adored father of Jayne and James, and cherished grandad of Jadon. Ivor was loved and respected by so many and will be deeply missed.

Resting at Thomas Brothers Funeral Home, Cowbridge until funeral on Monday July 30. Service to be held at Coychurch Crematorium at 12 noon.

Flowers may be sent to Thomas Brothers Funeral Home, or donations to be made to Coronary Care Unit at Morriston Hospital, Swansea, West Glamorgan SA6 6NL.

THOMAS

Linda Joyce

It is with great sadness the family announce the passing of their beloved sister Linda, loving daughter of the late Mansel and Sybil Thomas of Llanblethian. She will be missed by all family and friends.

Funeral service at Coychurch Crematorium, Friday, July 27 at 12 noon. Family flowers only. Donations in lieu may be sent to Marie Curie, Velindre Hospital, Velindre Road, Whitchurch, Cardiff.

CODY

June (RIP)

Suddenly on July 17, 2012 at her home in Llantwit Major, the beloved daughter of the late William Francis and Gwenllian Cody, a dear sister to her brothers and sisters. Greatly missed by all who knew her.

Requiem Mass to be held at Our Lady & St Iltyd Roman Catholic Church, Ham Lane, Llantwit Major on Wednesday, August 1, 2012 at 1.15pm. Afterwards to Cathays Cemetery (Fair Oaks Road Entrance).

Donations if wished to S.V.P. c/o the church.

All enquiries to W A Brown & Son, Llantwit Major, telephone 01446 792489.

Birthday Memories of

Thomas K Farman

JULY 31, 1925

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Because I loved you so.*

Your dearly loved wife, Gwyneth.

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You can't forget about Sports Activity Vehicles that will handle light off-roading like the BMW X5 or the Mercedes M-Class.

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four-wheel drive. Normally it drives just the front wheels. Four wheel drive only kicks in when the system detects the front wheels slipping.

It's quite clever really because the driver doesn't need to worry about changing from two to four wheels as they would in the Mitsubishi L200, for instance and in theory this makes it more economical when commuting.

The CR-V ES-T 2-litre manual tested follows the design of traditional off-roaders being relatively high off the ground and feels as if it will take all that's thrown at it.

I used to moan about modern vehicles not having any character and manufacturers preferring plastic over chrome. In the past few weeks, I have had the pleasure of driving an Audi A1 hatchback, where there was a fair bit of the shiny metal and now the Honda CR-V, which also liberally uses the plastic (to me) material.

It really is encouraging, as I believe it does add to the overall charm. The chrome door handles shimmer in the sunlight (when it appears) and make a good contrast to the black finish of the test vehicle.

A quirky feature is the handbrake, which is shaped more like a lever that you might expect in a racing car simulator. This is a little low to the floor, requiring me to lean to the left when engaging it.

The interior is comfortable – there is air conditioning and heated front seats. On a hot day though, the leather can be sticky and cooled seats would be advantageous.

Its six-speed manual box is precise while the engine powers the vehicle from 0 to 60mph in under 10 seconds and on to a top speed of 118mph.

Parkers, the car

experts, says: "The CR-V takes up no more road space than a family saloon (it's shorter than the Honda Accord) and its front end has been designed to cause minimum damage to pedestrians in an accident."

"This model is also less thirsty, less polluting, more practical and better to drive than its predecessor."

A family-friendly vehicle that offers a more exciting alternative to a traditional estate. New price range: £23,030 – £33,920. Honda CR-V Economy: 34mpg 0-60mph: 9.9secs Top speed: 118mph Power: 147bhp Watch the video at: www.testdrives.biz.

MOTORING with TIM SAUNDERS



THE HONDA CR-V

Golfer Gary savours victory at Maesteg

THE Blacksmiths Golf Society chose the picturesque Maesteg golf club for their annual prestigious competition, 'The Blacksmiths Closed'.

Three times winner John Campbell, who comes alive when the famous old toilet seat trophy is mentioned, set the early pace, but couldn't keep it up, although he did take home the nearest the pin award.

Evergreen Bill Aspinall took longest drive and also third place in the stableford competition.

Wick's Philemon Williams was given his 'bandit of the year' trophy and promptly lit up the course to finish runner-up to popular winner Gary Nealon, who was being rewarded for his consistency.

He now receives a two shot handicap cut (three if new hips arrive before the next fixture!) CG



Gary Nealon (right) receives the old loo seat trophy from 2011 champion Steve Jenkins.

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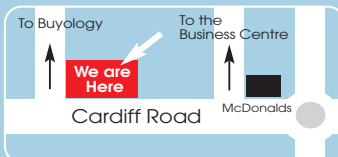


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GEM sport

SWIMMERS MAKE A BIG SPLASH AT GRAND FINAL



TWENTY six primary schools from across Bridgend county borough came together on Sunday, July 15, at Ynysawdre Swimming Pool for the grand final gala of the 2012 Swimming Challenge.

More than 400 spectators came to cheer on the competitors in the individual events and team relays. Sara Lougher, from the Garw Valley, presented the medals and the children were delighted at the opportunity to meet Sara, who although narrowly missing out on

qualifying for the Olympics, is part of the GB squad, the Welsh national team and represented Wales in the Commonwealth Games in Delhi.

Andy Walker, swimming development manager with Halo Leisure, said: "Halo Leisure is delighted that the event was such a success, as most of the children in the county learn to swim at a Halo pool in Bridgend, Pencoeed, Pyle, Maesteg or Ynysawdre."

Helping hand for grown ups as well! MANY adults aren't strong swimmers – something which

becomes highlighted when their kids want to jump in at the deep end on holiday!

Whatever the reason for wanting to become a better swimmer, Halo offer lessons for complete beginners, and for those who want to improve confidence and technique, whatever their age.

The event was kindly sponsored by Ortho Clinical Diagnostics, Pencoeed.

ABOVE:
The best school swimming team – West Park School, Porthcawl, with TeamGB swimmer Sara Lougher, Barry Lougher and Matthew West, representatives of Ortho Clinical Diagnostics, Pencoeed, who sponsored the gala.

Youngsters given golfing opportunity

YOUNGSTERS keen to try their hand at golf can now look forward to the very best introduction to the game as Pyle & Kenfig Golf Club has become a YMG Junior Golf Academy.

Pyle & Kenfig is delighted to become one of around only 300 clubs nationwide to be accredited with YMG Junior Golf Academy status.

Youngsters joining a YMG Academy receive a manual, which puts as much emphasis on the rules and etiquette as it does on playing the game, and there are five levels to work through, each comprising an eight-week course of one-hour lessons.

The extremely attractive and carefully assembled manual enables youngsters to see what's in store, week-by-week for each of the levels (Cadets, Cadets 2, Bronze, Silver, Gold and Master 1-4) and each level is marked by a



Youngsters have the chance to learn all about golf.

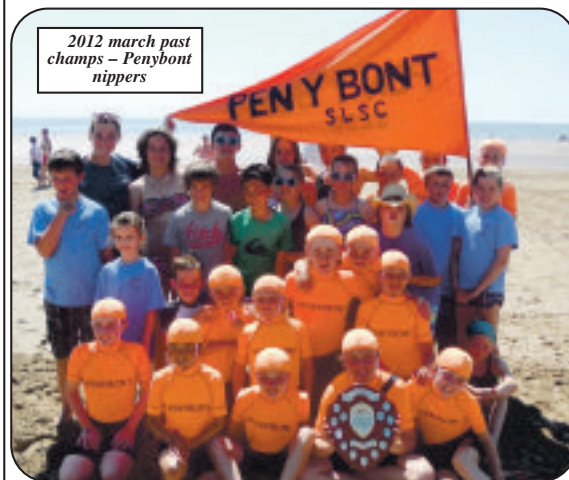
series of fun skills and knowledge challenges which the children complete to move on the next level.

If you would like to find out more about joining a YMG Cadets course at Pyle & Kenfig, call the PGA Professional team on 01656 772446 or call in at Pyle & Kenfig Proshop which is at Waun y Mer, Kenfig, near to Kenfig Nature Reserve.

JM

The Penybont lifeguards nippers are Welsh champs!

2012 march past champs – Penybont nippers



PENYBONT lifeguards' nipper section are 2012 Welsh March Past Champions.

The Welsh Surf Life Saving Nipper championship was held at Aberavon beach over the weekend. More than 250 children took part in one of the biggest competitions of the surf life-saving nipper calendar.

The championship involves two days of competitions testing the skills and stamina of nipper lifeguards, who range in age from 7 to 12 years.

Ten surf life-saving clubs took part from the south Wales coast, including Rest Bay, Porthcawl, Penybont, Southerndown, Llantwit Major, Rhose and Langland Bay.

Children competed in races such as swimming, running, relays and rescues. Mumbles Lifeguards won the overall championships, with the team from Penybont, who are based at Ogmore by Sea, taking a close second.

Peter Lake MBE, president of Surf Life Saving Wales explained: "This is a fantastic weekend where the children compete for their clubs in mock rescues and other similar life-saving events."

"The weather was brilliant and many visitors to the area turned out to watch. All the clubs were superb and judging by our nipper competitors, the future of surf life-saving in Wales is safe in their hands."

Penybont Lifeguards won the colourful March Past event and 12-year-old Louisa White said: "The March Past is very exciting with hundreds of people watching. We have to keep in line and march in time and we are scored on out presentation and marching skills."

"I couldn't believe it when the judges called us out as the champions. Our coaches did a great job training us and their hard work paid off."

NW

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